

JPRS-NEA-84-028

21 February 1984

Near East/South Asia Report

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21 February 1984

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EXPANDING ROLE OF WORLD ISLAMIC LEAGUE EXAMINED

Paris DEFENSE NATIONALE in French Jan 84 pp 73-80

[Article by Georges de Bouteiller: "The World Islamic League, a Tentacular Institution"]

[Text] Our readers already know Georges de Bouteiller, minister plenipotentiary and former ambassador of France to Saudi Arabia. He deals here with an institution of contemporary Islam that is not well-known and whose activity could become very important in a few years.

In preceding articles, we have had occasion to tell the readers of this review about the first pillar of the new Moslem international built in the years 1960-1970 with the financial support of Arab-oil Islam: the "Islamic Conference Organization."¹

This organization groups the 42 independent Moslem homelands, and it is an institution which, to our Western eyes, could pass as political, extrareligious, if it did not take part, through these affiliates, in the work of consolidating and extending the Islamic cultural space in Africa and Asia.

The second pillar of contemporary Islam, and of as ambiguous a character as the first, is the "World Islamic League," less well-known in the West. Its activity is discreet, but tentacular and effective--as will be seen in a few years. The League establishes the liaison among the Moslem communities all over the world (not among the Moslem states, as the Islamic Conference does). It provides for the propagation of Islam mainly in the Third World: another approach by contemporary Islam that restores meaning to the concept of "Islamic nation," of "Umma." But does it represent a purely ideological undertaking, with no political aspect?

Formation and Mission of the League

During the interim between the two wars and after the 1939-1945 conflict, a number of "Islamic Congresses" had expressed the desire to found a permanent organization grouping the Moslems around the Islamic spiritual ideal. Thus it was that, under Saudi initiative, the World Islamic League--in Arabic, the "Rabita"--was born at the beginning of the 1960's. Its

headquarters is in Mecca. Its mission is fixed in the following terms by its Constitutional Charter of 15 December 1962: "propagation of the message of Islam, explanation of its principles and of its doctrine, dispelling of the doubts by which the enemies of Islam endeavor to alienate the believers from their faith, to destroy their unity and their fraternity, and finally, study of the Islamic problems for the good of the Moslems and the fulfillment of their efforts."

The League, the Charter states, "shall miss no opportunity to create unity among the Moslems...to remove all obstacles standing in the way to a pan-Islamic institution, to use for this purpose the moral, cultural and material resources available to it."²

The Rabita's board of directors, called the Constituent Council, composed of delegates of the Moslem communities (and not of the states, as is the case with the Islamic Conference), meets once or twice a year. The petrodollars of the Gulf countries furnish most of the financial means of the League, whose secretary general has always been, since its creation, a Saudi personality (currently Dr Abullah Omar Nassif, since the death in 1983 of Riyadh's former minister of justice, Sheikh Harakan). He is aided by assistants from various committees (political, cultural, financial, education, religious studies, etc), as well as by an "Academy of Jurisprudence" that is sponsored by both poles of the contemporary Moslem international, the Islamic League and the Islamic Conference.

This Academy, formed of religious figures and intellectuals, was created for examining the general problem of adaptation of Islamic practice to the realities of the modern world. Islam would thus enjoy what it most lacks: a central authority for stating the law or interpreting it. One of the latest meetings was devoted to a medical innovation that poses a moral problem--"test-tube babies."

The League's various emanations emphasize the missionary aspect of its action: the "Supreme Council of Islamic Appeal," the "High Commission for Mosques," and the "Voice of Islam," a powerful radio station relayed through Malaysia to cover Southeast Asia.

The League's action is diffused through the installation of "continental councils of the mosques" in various parts of the world--for example, in Australia and in Jakarta, Indonesia. Their mission is to coordinate the activity of "regional councils" created in the countries of South and Southeast Asia, so as to increase there the number of Moslem places of worship.³ In Africa south of the Sahara, a similar organization has been set up. It is headed by an "African Islamic Coordination Council," with headquarters in Dakar.⁴

The League has representations throughout the Moslem world (even in small communities such as the Maldives, where the 200,000 inhabitants of that independent state are all of Islamic faith), but also in the big Western capitals--Paris, notably. (Is the League active among the Arab immigrant groups in France? Probably so.)

In Mecca, the League trains mosque imams to lead prayers, and preachers who are then sent into the field.⁵ The Saudi kingdom has given it a highly sophisticated model printing plant that puts out millions of copies of the Koran in all languages and Islamic works distributed throughout the world.

Very special attention is devoted to the expansion of Islam on the African continent and Southeast Asia. During the annual pilgrimage to the Holy Places, the League organizes "international Islamic symposiums." The 11th one, in 1982, was devoted to "the future of Islam in Africa," and that of September 1983, "to the development of Islam in Southeast Asia,"⁶ where, according to a speaker, "the population remains ready to accept it."

By agreement with the Saudi and Moroccan governments, an "Institute for the Propagation of Islam" was created in Fez in 1983. Finally, the League is contributing with the Islamic Conference Organization and Saudi Arabia, to the founding of "Islamic cultural centers," one of the latest to be opened being in Malacca, Malaysia.⁷

This activity is truly tentacular. The League is materially supporting and organizing the "third expansion" of Islam," the one that is taking place under our eyes in Central Africa and in the Far East.

A New-Style Caliphate?

The idea of reconstituting, even if in a collective form, this old institution that was suppressed by the laicizing Kemalist Turks in 1924 would hardly be realistic in the climate of touchy nationalism of our time. The Islamic Conference, for its part, has rejected this notion. But the memory of it still haunts the thought of certain Moslem intellectuals. There was an attempt at restoration in India in the 1920's, but nothing came of it. Later, the Syrian Rashid Ridha (who died in 1935), the disciple of a great name in Moslem reformism, the Egyptian Muhammad Abdhou, worked out the theory of a caliphate playing an effective role in the spiritual and material conduct of the Moslem community in order to fill in the void resulting from the fact that Islam has no institution comparable to the Christian church and the Vatican, which makes it very difficult to adapt Islamic law and morality to modern life, since no central authority has the power to decide for all of the Moslems. In our day, we must cite the curious declarations made by an Egyptian, a militant in a feminine integrist movement, the "Moslem Sisters"--Zineb El Ghazali, who in 1981 urged an "Islamic state or commonwealth led by a caliph, chosen as the result of free consultation among Moslems," which does not, she says, presume the abolition of the Moslem states with their own governments. By this concept, the caliph would be the sole supreme chief, as in the American presidential system.⁸

Quite an unrealistic view, in our judgment. For the time being, a simple bond among the Moslems all over the world and propagation of Islam are ensured by the World League, without the exercise of any temporal power; but its action often has political overtones.

Isn't the League a headquarters for missionary activity and an organ of liaison among the Moslem communities? As is often the case in the affairs of Islam, the reality does not let itself be easily bounded within our conceptual categories.

This has already been remarked with regards to the Islamic Conference, a "political-cultural" institution. Inversely, one could call the World Islamic League a "cultural-political" organism, if we are permitted such a neologism.

We can postulate that its essential activity is of a missionary nature-- "religious," we would say in the West. But nothing in Islam is 100-percent spiritual or temporal. The League does not refrain from making "recommendations" or from expressing desires of a political nature. Thus, during our diplomatic mission in Jedda, we received one day a delegation from the League that had come to ask us to transmit to the French government a "deliberation" by its Constituent Council calling for the independence of the territory of Djibouti.

Another example, taken from the Saudi press during the 23rd meeting of that Council, held in Mecca in September 1981: one reads that the "political committee" had discussed the questions of Jerusalem and of Palestine (the leader of the PLO, Yasser Arafat, was even invited to take part in the discussions).⁹ That committee had also discussed unification of the Afghan resistance groups and had issued an appeal "to the Moslem countries to break all relations with the Communist regime of Kabul and to adopt a common position vis-a-vis the USSR."¹⁰ This "political committee" of the League had also examined the situation of the Moslems in the USSR and in People's China, and (we quote), "urged the Islamic states to call on Peking to grant more liberty to the peoples of Sinkiang."¹¹

The League took a position in 1982 with regard to the affairs of Cyprus, asking that "dialogue be activated between the Greek community and the Turkish Moslems, and that the fate of the latter be settled within the framework of an independent federal republic."¹²

The pilgrimage to Mecca is an excellent opportunity for the League to make contact with the small groups of Soviet and Chinese Moslems, carefully screened, whom their respective governments now authorize to go to the Holy Places of Islam. Special seminars are organized for them, "in order to explain to them the opposition between the Islamic faith and Marxist ideology."¹³

From time to time, the League sends representatives to the Moslem Soviet republics of Central Asia and to People's China: for example, to Tashkent in 1980, where Moscow had organized a Moslem Conference (for the purpose of getting the Moslem countries to "swallow" the occupation of Afghanistan). In 1981, it was Communist China's turn, on the invitation of the "Association of Moslems of People's China."

While the World Islamic League is succeeding in establishing contacts with the most isolated Moslem communities, such contacts are incessant

everywhere else in Asia and Africa. The colonies of emigres in Europe and America are not forgotten. The League provides them with material aid. Sometimes the Saudi government intervenes directly. In 1981, King Khaled gave \$600,000 to some 20 Moslem associations in the United States. Better yet, an "American Islamic college" was opened in Chicago at the beginning of the 1983-1984 school year and placed under the control of representatives of Saudi Arabia--again--and of Qatar and Sudan. In Europe, the League's secretary general has set up a "Regional Council for Construction of Mosques" in Brussels.

The World Islamic League plays, as one sees, a very active role in the current expansion of Islam, which, in contrast to the past, is no longer being effected solely by episodic contacts with the local populations of merchants, navigators and possibly theologians. What we see is a deliberate, well-organized undertaking, abundantly provided with money. Politically, the positions taken by the League on the great problems of the Middle East--Palestine, Afghanistan, the Iran-Iraq conflict--reflect those of the Islamic Conference Organization, whose secretary general, the former Tunisian minister Habib Shatti, maintains close contact with the World League. Saudi Arabia finds in this organism that it generously finances faithful support for its foreign policy, which is centered entirely on orthodox Sunni Islamic ideology.¹⁴

Thus, the existence of the League and its action on a worldwide scale are restoring all the meaning of the concept of "Islamic nation," Umma, that was divided by colonization and then by the rise of national states. This concept goes far beyond the notions of entente and cooperation among the national states within the institutions of community-oriented Islam sparked by the Islamic Conference Organization. The "Islamic nation," as viewed from the World League's headquarters in Mecca, is an ideological reality that is often expressed in political language when it is threatened.

The activity of the World Islamic League has a particular characteristic that should be stressed in conclusion. The institution has always been directed by Saudi personalities. The providers of funds are mainly the oil states of the Gulf. These countries, which are among the wealthy and moderate ones of contemporary Islam, are, culturally, of strict orthodox Sunni obedience. They reject modern integrist ideology and its narrow-minded, violently anti-Western view of the world. What the World League is propagating is not that kind of Islam. The Arab oil of the Gulf has not become the ally of Islamic extremism. This fact should be clearly noted.

FOOTNOTES

1. The review DEFENSE NATIONALE, January and February 1981: "The Islamic Nation"; April 1981: "After Taef 1981: the Islamic Nation?"
2. In 1969, King Faisal based himself on this passage in the League's Charter to propose to the first Islamic summit meeting, in Rabat, the founding of a new institution, of more political character, the "Islamic Conference Organization."

3. Malaysia, Japan, The Philippines, India, Bangladesh, Thailand, Singapore, China (Taiwan), Pakistan, Vietnam, Sri Lanka (PRESSE SAOUDIENNE of 15 November 1982).
4. PRESSE SAOUDIENNE of 27 December 1981.
5. Systematically organized training at a specialized center in Mecca. PRESSE SAOUDIENNE of 12 May 1983 announced the graduation of the "fourth class" of imams and preachers.
6. PRESSE SAOUDIENNE of 6 September 1981.
7. PRESSE SAOUDIENNE of 26 January 1983.
8. Statements by Zineb El Ghazali, founder and director of the Islamic women's integrist movement in Egypt, as taken by Jean-Pierre Peroncel-Hugoz, LE MONDE editor, and published in No 13 of the review POLITIQUE INTERNATIONALE (1981).
9. PRESSE SAOUDIENNE of 15 September 1981.
10. PRESSE SAOUDIENNE of 16 September 1981.
11. PRESSE SAOUDIENNE of 20 October 1981.
12. PRESSE SAOUDIENNE of 12 September 1982.
13. PRESSE SAOUDIENNE of 5 October 1981 and 8 September 1983. On the occasion of the 1983 pilgrimage, the secretary general of the League met in Mecca with a delegation of Soviet Moslems led by the "president of the religious administration of the Caucasus."
14. In this regard, see Chapter X of our book published by Presses Universitaires de France in 1981: "L'Arabie Saoudite, Cite de Dieu, Cite des Affaires, Puissance Internationale" [Saudi Arabia, City of God, City of Business, International Power].

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STEPS TAKEN TO CONTROL IMPORT OF SPOILED GOODS

Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 1 Jan 84 p 11

[Article by Muhammad al-Shuhud: "Positive Steps to Eliminate Fraud by Importers"]

[Test] So that the state can eliminate all attempts made by some importers to bring spoiled goods into the country and offer them for sale in the markets of all the governorates, Dr Sabri Zaki, the minister of health, decided to set up a new chemical laboratory in the city of Port Said. It will be outfitted with all the equipment and devices needed to uncover spoiled goods before they are offered for sale in the public markets. The minister opened this laboratory last Tuesday. He pointed out that it is equipped with a large refrigerator, which will preserve the goods until they can be investigated in the laboratory. The refrigerator is supposed to be installed by the middle of January at the latest.

The administrative control department at Port Said is convinced that the poor facilities at the laboratory belonging to the Ministry of Health in Port Said, which is supposed to investigate shipments of goods imported from abroad, is one of the factors which have helped give some importers and a group of officials the chance to dispose of spoiled products unfit for human consumption.

The men from administrative control are also convinced that what the country has been exposed to in the last 2 years in the form of a flow of spoiled goods to the markets in the governorates was the result of several contradictory decisions and the disappearance of the directives concerning health inspections of all goods from the files on the subject. Three contradictory decisions were issued with respect to a single good.

The details of the story can be found in the instructions issued by Major General Muhammad 'Abdullah, the head of the administrative control department, after the department resumed the practice of its duties. The department head asked its members in all the governorates to study the problems faced by the citizens and the state's administrative branch. The subject of the spoiled goods which have flooded the markets of the governorates during the last 2 years headed the list of topics which were given priority in the investigation and study conducted by the administrative control department.

What Happened?

In the beginning, the investigation dealt with the method used to conduct health inspections on all nutritional goods imported through Port Said. The information uncovered said that rules existed for organizing the action taken whenever nutritional goods arrived in Port Said. These rules said that the officials in question were to conduct a chemical and bacteriological investigation of some samples of the imported goods, which were permitted to be introduced into the markets if their suitability was demonstrated. If the testing showed the goods to be spoiled, they were to be projected. However, the owner of the rejected shipment (the rejected goods) had the right to submit a request to have samples of it analyzed at the central laboratories in Cairo, where the opinion of the Port Said laboratory would either be confirmed or overturned. The opinion of the central laboratories in Cairo was considered conclusive and final. If they rejected any goods, they had to be returned to the exporter or destroyed within 60 days of the date on which the results of the analysis were obtained. It was not permitted to take a third sample after the analysis carried out in Cairo.

However, the committees formed by the administrative control department in Port Said uncovered serious violations of these rules. The committees became certain that collusion operations were taking place between the workers at the Port Said laboratory and those at the central laboratory in Cairo, for the purpose of clearing goods known to be spoiled. Therefore, when the committees began to investigate the files dealing with decisions concerning the admitting of imported foodstuffs, it became obvious that these decisions had totally disappeared, thereby confirming that their disappearance has to do with the cover-up of the crime which was committed.

The control committees are certain that 58 shipments of spoiled food were imported at the expense of 58 importers during the last 2 years. It was shown that all these shipments were unfit for human consumption. Despite that, they were cleared. All the documents which point the finger of blame at the perpetrators of these violations have been removed. Despite that, the administrative control department uncovered some officials in the executive apparatus who were behind these wrong decisions. The department discovered that the Port Said laboratories used to decide that these shipments were spoiled. When they were resubmitted to the Cairo laboratories, they would decide that the goods were fine.

In this regard, some members of the control committee say that some of the samples submitted to the Cairo laboratories were different from the real samples. In some cases, spoiled goods would be cleared over the telephone by officials at the central laboratories in Cairo.

By way of example, not summation, a shipment of tea weighing 800 kilograms once arrived at Port Said. The shipment was cleared before the result of the chemical testing was known. Similarly, 1,815 kilograms of frozen meat were cleared before the reports from the Cairo laboratories concerning the results of the analysis had been received. Chemical tests proved the unfitness of

8,315 cartons of frozen meat which were brought by ship. It was decided to destroy the meat. Despite that, the decision was not recorded in the rejection folder and the goods were cleared. The same thing happened in the case of a shipment of margarine which was shown to be spoiled. Suddenly the officials at Port Said received instructions by telephone to pass the shipment. After that, a shipment of 108,000 cans of luncheon meat was also cleared over the telephone, although the laboratories had determined that the food was unfit. In an unorthodox move, a shipment of 600,000 packets of tea was tested four times, though the rules do not allow that. Each time the investigators determined that the tea was unfit. However, on the fourth try they decided it was sound.

After the control committees had uncovered these acts, they decided to turn over those who had played a role in these decisions during the last 2 years to an urgent investigation.

As for the new laboratory opened last Tuesday by Dr Sabri Zaki, the minister of health, it will eliminate all kinds of fraud, since it has been decided to focus on the Port Said laboratory in order to do away with the great contradiction which existed in health clearance standards for foodstuffs imported through Port Said.

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CSO: 4504/128

WORKER INCENTIVES FOR INCREASED PRODUCTION DESCRIBED

Rules for Calculating Incentives

Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 1 Jan 84 p 7

[Article: "Rules for Calculating Worker Incentives in the Administrative Apparatus"]

[Text] It has been decided to form production incentive committees in all the units of the government, the local governments, the public institutions and the economic units belonging to them. The committees will take in all the primary activities of the above.

Each committee will draw up an incentive system which will be applied to the workers in light of the provisions of Law 115, which has to do with reform of the workers' law, and in the context of the regulations issued by the Central Department for Organization and Administration. In addition, the circumstances of each party will be taken into account.

The sum of 10 million pounds will be paid out as worker incentives in the next six months, ending next July, in accordance with the 1983-84 budget.

A worker deserves an incentive if he performs above the decreed average level by certain graduated, rising percentages, with each percentage of increase being measured in units of production or output.

The rules issued by the central organization in this regard state that the amount of money will be calculated on the basis of a certain percentage of the worker's base pay, which will be decided according to each increase in production or output.

Those occupying supervisory posts at various levels will get incentives equal to the average percentage incentive received by the workers under them.

A worker's incentive will be decreased in the following cases:

-5 percent for every case of being late to work

-25 percent for those penalized by warnings, or the deduction of 3 days' pay during the month in which the punishment occurred.

Individuals whose output is 20 percent above the average level, in terms of production units, will receive an incentive equal to 10 percent of their pay. The incentive will be 20 percent if they produce 40 percent more, 30 percent if they produce 60 percent more, 40 percent if they produce 80 percent more, and 50 percent if they produce 100 percent more than the average level.

If an individual produces 120 percent more than the average level, his incentive will be 60 percent. If he produces 140 percent more, it will be 70 percent. If he produced 160 percent more, it will be 80 percent. If he produces 180 percent more, it will be 90 percent, and if he produces 200 percent more than the average level, his incentive will be 100 percent.

With respect to the service units, the incentive will be 10 percent if the increase in real output is 20 percent above the average level. It will be 20 percent if the increase is between 20 and 40 percent, 30 percent if the increase is between 40 and 60 percent, 40 percent if the increase is between 60 and 80 percent, and 50 percent if the increase in real output is more than 80 percent.

Moreover, these guiding rules state that incentives are to be determined on an individual basis. They may be determined on a collective basis in accordance with the total output of the activity in question, if the nature of the work so requires.

Incentives for Oil Workers

Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 1 Jan 84 p 7

[Article by Muhammad Isma'il: "Incentives and Reimbursements for the Oil Workers"]

[Text] Anwar 'Ashmawi, the president of the Trade Union of Petroleum Workers, has announced that a serious study is now being done of the possibility of increasing the wages of workers in the petroleum sector.

He said the study was concerned with the difference between the wage scale applied in the public sector companies and that used in the mixed sector and private sector firms.

He added that it had been decided to generalize the advantages and services obtained by the workers in one company to all the other companies. This came after a joint meeting of the heads of the trade union committees of five oil companies. The meeting was held at the al-'Alamayn fields. It was witnessed by Engineer Muhyi al-Din Bahjat, the chairman of the board of directors of the WEPCO company. During the meeting, it was decided to give a reimbursement of 5 percent of salary to the workers in the public sector companies.

Moreover, it was decided to give an experience incentive to workers in the public sector companies.

'Ashmawi added that it had been decided to apply the savings certificate system to workers in the public sector companies. Thus, 30 full months of pay will be paid out with incentives when the workers reach the age of 60. Similarly, it was decided to pay out 40 months of pay without incentives to the workers in the mixed sector companies.

Ilyas 'Ali Karar, the chairman of the trade union committee at the WIBCO company, announced that it had been decided to pay an offshore reimbursement to the workers in the maritime fields and on the sea platforms. The reimbursement will be permanent, and it will be paid for both working and vacation days. This will replace the old system, according to which an offshore reimbursement used to be paid for working days only.

'Abd al-Qadir Husni, the vice president of the General Trade Union of Petroleum Workers, announced that it had been decided to change the system of work in the maritime fields from 14 days with a seven-day vacation to 12 days with an 11-day vacation.

Residence Reimbursement

Muhammad Zad al-Din, the general secretary of the General Trade Union of Petroleum Workers, said that a study was now being done of the possibility of paying a residential reimbursement to the workers of SOCO and PETROJET.

He added that a study was being done of all kinds of reimbursement within the mixed sector companies, with the goal of unifying and generalizing them to cover the 50,000 workers in the petroleum sector in Egypt.

Engineer Muhyi-al-Din Bahjat, the chairman of the board of WEPKO, announced that it had been decided to appropriate \$300,000 for worker training inside the country and abroad.

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ANTI-CRIME MEASURES REPORTED

Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 6 Jan 84 p 8

[Article by Hasan Abu al-'Aynayn: "At His Meeting with the Officers of the Cairo Security Department, the Minister of the Interior Reports There Will be 100 New Cars to Support Night Patrols in the Capital"]

[Text] Mr Hasan Abu Basha, the minister of the interior, has announced that during the next two months mounted night patrols will be supported by approximately 100 new cars, and that investigation officers will take part in these patrols. Thus, large areas of the capital will be covered, the shortage of policemen will be compensated for, and the patrols will contribute to the work of the investigation officers. Moreover, preventive measures will be taken against crime and to assure the apprehension of criminals, so that they do not escape punishment.

In his meeting yesterday with the officers of the Cairo Security Department, the minister asked for an intensification of efforts to eliminate the phenomenon of car theft. He also asked for coordination in this area with the ministry's other offices in the governorates. He said this could be done by speedily informing the central traffic stations on the high-speed roads, so that the cars could be seized before leaving one governorate for another. Moreover, the minister said it was necessary to use the media to display the methods of committing crimes, so as to warn the public and keep them from falling prey to criminals, thereby avoiding the recurrence of accidents and crimes.

The minister of the interior had praise for the efforts exerted by the criminal investigation offices in Cairo in recent times. The offices have been able to arrest six criminal groups involving 73 defendants. These persons were able to commit 94 thefts in homes and businesses in Cairo and al-Gizah, in addition to stealing cars, their contents and a number of motorcycles.

The minister said that the phenomenon of criminal gangs being formed for the purpose of stealing was new to the country and unprecedented in the field of crime. He said it was essential to use every possible tool to wipe it out. Moreover, the minister lauded the efforts of the anti-narcotics police, which have led to the seizure of large quantities of these poisons and have tightened the nooses around the necks of narcotics smugglers and dealers.

After the meeting, which was attended by Major General 'Ali Nur al-Din Hilmi, the director of security, his assistant, Major General 'Abbas al-'Asi, the director of investigations, Colonel 'Abd al-Hadi Mukhaymar, the head of investigations, and a number of police officers, the minister inspected a display of stolen items which were seized after the accused admitted stealing them. They included six cars, two motorcycles, a large group of electronic devices, jewelry, gems, household appliances and goods. The accused admitted to committing these crimes by climbing water pipes, breaking back doors down and using artificial keys. The items seized were estimated to be worth hundreds of thousands of pounds. The minister evinced his pleasure at the role played by the police in seizing these stolen items and returning them to their owners. He ordered that financial compensation be paid to the persons who participated in seizing them. Moreover, he said it was essential to make sure that dangerous, recently released convicts did not go back to practicing their old ways. He demanded that more use be made of informants.

Mr Blanchard, the communications director at the American Embassy, who attended the display in order to pick up some items which had been stolen from his apartment, praised the policemen who were able to seize the items and return them intact just a brief time after the occurrence of the incident.

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BRIEFS

TRADE AGREEMENT WITH UAE--Abu Dhabi, 30 Jan--Morocco and the United Arab Emirates concluded here this Tuesday an agreement on trade exchanges. The agreement was initialed by visiting Moroccan Minister of Commerce, Industry and Tourism Azzeddine Guessous, and the UAE Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade Sayf ibn 'Ali al-Jarwan. The agreement stipulates the encouragement of capitals transfer between the two countries, cooperation between the two countries' public and private organisms dealing with commercial and technical matters, the exchange of missions of experts and technicians, and the organizing of training cycles. [Text] [LD010600 Rabat MAP in English 1240 GMT 30 Jan 84 LD]

FOREIGN TRADE FIGURES--Casablanca, 6 Feb (MAP)--At the end of the first 10 months of 1983, the overall amount of Moroccan trade transactions with foreign countries was 31.6 billion dirhams, of which 20.5 billion were imports and 11.1 billion were exports. The trade deficit amounted to 9.4 billion dirhams, compared with 11.7 billion dirhams in the previous year--thus marking an improvement of 19.1 percent. The rate of coverage of imports by exports rose to 54.1 percent compared with 45 percent during the previous year. This improvement was due to a 3.1-percent drop in imports and a 16.5-percent improvement in exports. [Summary] [LD090150 Rabat MAP in French 1530 GMT 6 Feb 84 LD]

CSO: 4500/34

WESTERN SAHARA

SDAR'S BEIBA ENDS VISIT TO IRAN

LD211536 Algiers APS in French 1200 GMT 21 Jan 84

[Text] Tehran, 21 Jan (APS)--Mr Mahfoud Ali Beiba, [SDAR prime minister], member of the Executive Committee of the Polisario Front and SDAR minister for the interior responsible for information and culture, ended an official visit of 4 days to the Islamic Republic of Iran on Thursday, according to a communique from the Saharan Information Ministry issued on Wednesday.

In a statement to the Iranian press shortly before his departure from Tehran Mr Ali Beiba pointed out that this visit was an occasion for the two countries to exchange their views on subjects of common interest and to study the possible ways and means for strengthening bilateral relations between the two countries.

Moreover, Mr Ali Beiba expressed his satisfaction over the fruitful results (accruing) from this visit and thanked the Islamic Republic of Iran for its stand of support for and solidarity with the Saharan Muslim people's just struggle against the imperialist-reactionary aggression of which it is a target, states the communique.

Also, Mr Ali Beiba was received during his visit to Tehran by Iranian President Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Khamene'i, who he handed a message from Mr Mohamed Abdelaziz, SDAR president of and Polisario Front general secretary.

The Saharan prime minister also informed the Iranian President of the latest developments in the Saharan people's struggle against the American-Moroccan plot.

For his part, Mr 'Ali Khamene'i reasserted for his part, during his meeting with the Saharan prime minister Mr 'Ali Khamene'i reasserted the support and solidarity of his country and his government with the struggle of the Saharan people and its advance guard, the Polisario Front, against the "regime of Rabat."

The Iranian President also saluted the SDAR's diplomatic and military victories and stressed the duty of all progressive and anti-imperialist forces to stand at the side of the Saharan people, adds the communique.

Moreover, Mr 'Ali Khamene'i reasserted his country's readiness to work for strengthening relations between the Saharan and Iranian peoples, as well as between the two revolutions, states the communique.

The communique stressed that the Iranian President entrusts to Mr Ali Beida the responsibility of conveying a message of brotherhood and solidarity to Mr Mohamed Abdelaziz, SDAR president.

During his stay in the Islamic Republic of Iran the Saharan prime minister also had high-level meetings with high-ranking officials in the Iranian Government, notably the prime minister, the foreign affairs minister, and the president of the Iranian consultative assembly, states the communique.

CSO: 4500/34

ISRAEL

WEIZMAN IS KOTERET RASHIT'S 1983 'COWARD OF THE YEAR'

Tel Aviv KOTERET RASHIT in Hebrew No 56, 28 Dec 83 p 6

[Article: "For the Glory of the State of Israel"]

[Text] The poet Hayim Hefer has suggested that we hold a contest for the title of Coward ["mugi" in text] of 1983. "Mugi" (or perhaps "mugele" [meaning "little coward"]) is not the name of a new yogurt for children or the symbol of the Olympic games when they will be held in Mongolia. "Mugi" is an affectionate name for a coward.

Hefer's idea was exciting, but it was not so simple to implement. Above all, there were too many candidates on the list. At first thought, Hefer suggested Member of Knesset Avraham Melamed. Melamed, an avowed dove, promised so many times that with his vote he would topple the Likud government, and it turns out that not only did he not topple it but he also helped in the establishment of the new Likud government headed by Yitzhaq Shamir. Of the tongue of the scale, only the tongue has remained.

If not Melamed, perhaps Dr Burg, the man who squeezes with the current ["The Hebrew word "sohet" meaning "squeezes" or "extorts" is possibly a play on the Hebrew word "sohe" meaning "swims"]. Can Burg serve as the coward of the year? Not so much. Whatever his political courage, he does not belong to 1 year. Burg is the symbol of an entire period.

It would have been possible to select as the cowards of 1983 six members of Knesset, the coalition rebels. Many perhaps do not remember them, but the six (Savidor, Tikhon, Zeigerman, Berman, Hurvitz, and Minister Ben-Porat) threatened only 2 or 3 months ago to use the power of their vote to block the formation of the government. These were cowardly stories, of course. The threat faded so quickly that those who made them became ineligible for the prize.

For a while we thought of Menahem Begin as a coward. He was the man who did not have the strength to stand up to the imperial dreams of Ariel Sharon and Rafael Eytan. He fled to a period of depression instead of mobilizing the psychological forces to endure the results. Begin is one of those who in a time of crisis withdraw into themselves.

In early 1983 Yitzhaq Shamir was involved over his head in dreams of inheritance. It was a situation that invited much caution and very little courage. Shamir supported all the actions of the war, even those that his government now seeks to abandon. In the investigation commission he was revealed as "insensitive" and "not alert," in the understatement of the report of Judge Kahan. One of those who has been following him from close up spoke this week bitingly about Shamir's courage as prime minister. He fears the Agudat Yisrael and David Levi, he said. He fears the Americans and is mainly afraid of what is written in the press. Perhaps this is a change for the good, we thought. Sharon was not afraid of the press, and what was the result?

Nonetheless, after much thought, we decided to select Ezer Weizman. Weizman, indeed, is the Coward of 1983. It was he who was afraid to say one word publicly against the war lest his popularity be damaged. It was he who appeared publicly only after the murder of Emil Grinzwieg, and even this was in a non-controversial interview, as if he were the president and not a private citizen. It was he who has wasted the last 2 years in the formation of dummy lists, the entire objective of which was to convince the Herut movement to readmit him. Weizman, the hero of the political forecast columns in the press, and only the forecast columns. He is the General Boulanger of the Israeli editorial staff.

In politics, logic is on the side of the fearful. An act of courage is often a one-time act from which there is no return. Ezer Weizman performed his act of courage when he resigned from the Begin government. On one occasion Weizman mentioned in this connection the story about Zuriq Dayan, of blessed memory, who in the War of Liberation stood up to lead an assault while shouting "follow me," and he was surprised to see no one was running behind him. Weizman has paid a heavy price for his action. He can say to himself that the people of Israel have all paid a price. At times, true courage is to ignore the expectations all around and to conduct oneself for the purpose of change as a fearful person. How many times will Weizman be able to make the front page because of the possibility of rehabilitation in politics through the front door or the back door? With the passage of time, he is becoming more and more of a problem and less and less of a solution.

Who will be the Coward of 1984? We posed this question to politicians and journalists, and the response was surprisingly almost unanimous: This will be the year of the coward for Yitzhaq Navon.

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CSO: 4423/28

ISRAEL

RECENT FIRINGS, SHAKE-UP IN GOVERNMENT OFFICES DISCUSSED

Tel Aviv KOTERET RASHIT in Hebrew No 56, 28 Dec 83 pp 15-17

[Text] When Menahem Begin came to power in May 1977, he promised that the period of "Protektzia" [meaning favoritism or influence] was over. Among all the promises that were not kept, this was the only one that was intentionally not kept. After one term of playing government games, a substantial number of the ministers began to divide up the spoils with a frenzy. The two main areas in which the minister allocates favors are the senior officialdom of the ministries and the management of the government companies. In most of the cases the dismissal actions and the political intentions behind them are legal, at least in the formal sense of the concept.

There are ministries that look like the section for seeking relatives. The minister of tourism, for example, Avraham Sharir, employs on his staff his brother-in-law, the son of his private physician, and his brother-in-law's commander in the reserves, besides his friends and his friends' friends. The director-general of the ministry, Rafi Farber, responds to this that he is also one of Sharir's personal friends: "It is natural for us to ask about people before we select them." The father, Farber corrected me, is not a dentist. He is a general practitioner. As a minister, he said, Sharir can go to any doctor without charge. The doctor's son is the assistant director-general of the company for the development of tourism enterprises. The director-general is also a member of the Liberal Party, confirms Farber. Both of them are from Giv'atayim.

Few deny the right of ministers to bring key people into their ministries who will do their best to implement their policy. This is particularly true in regard to ministries such as Finance and Foreign Affairs where the senior officials are supposed to determine policy or to explain it concerning issues on which public opinion is divided. I prefer an advisor or official or ambassador who is loyal to the coalition and whose work will be in consonance with the views of his superiors. He will fulfill his mission better than an official who has reservations about government policy. This is on one condition and one only: that the new man not be a fool.

Take the Ministry of Agriculture, for example. The ministry, that during the time of Moshe Dayan was considered as the most sophisticated and best managed

of the ministries, has been severely shaken in recent years. The latest action of the new minister of agriculture, Pesah Grupper, has been to fire the director-general of the Israel Lands Administration, Meir Shamir, and to replace him with Moshe Lifka, a young activist of the Liberal Party, who was brought into the ministry with the personal influence of the late Minister Simha Ehrlich. Lifka's claim to fame was that he was the son of a contractor with strong influence in the party. One can only pray that the connection with contracting will not influence Lifka's deliberations as one who is likely to preserve the State of Israel's greatest asset -- land. The firing of Shamir was approved by a 9 to 5 vote in the cabinet. Each of the ministers who voted for the firing had his own firings consideration. One of Grupper's assistants complained to me that Minister Aharon Uzan was fighting the dismissal of Shamir. "Uzan fired wholesale the top management of his ministry in order to create vacancies for members of his ethnic group or his party," said the official. "Why is it that what is permissible for him is prohibited for Grupper?"

It is worthwhile to take a glance at other developments in Grupper's ministry. This week, for example, Mr Amikam Shapira was appointed deputy director-general for administration of Tahal, Israel Water-Planning Authority. Tahal is a government company. Shapira was the spokesman for Shlomo Lahat, the mayor of Tel Aviv, and subsequently the spokesman for Ehrlich. When Ehrlich moved to the Ministry of Agriculture, Shapira arranged to take the position of deputy director-general for special functions. What was so special about these functions is unclear. After Ehrlich's death, Shapira claimed that Ehrlich had promised him the position of active chairman in the Mekorot Company. Grupper did not consent to be so generous. Instead, he gave Shapira the position in Tahal. In a normal administration, such a young man would have received his compensation and after the farewell formalities, go home. By us he becomes a deputy director-general.

Who replaced Shapira in the Ministry of Agriculture? Nahum Damati. Damati, a Liberal Party activist in the north, is known to the public because of the criminal investigation that the police are conducting against him. The police suspects that he used his position in the moshav of Ahihud in order to build himself a house cheaply. The investigation file is still open, something which does not prevent Damati from moving up the ladder.

Arye Zeif, one of the young Liberals, was forced upon Ehrlich in one of the deals that he made with Moda'i. Zeif is from Moda'i's group, and he has a B.A. in agriculture. He was Moda'i's assistant in the Ministry of Communications, and Moda'i dropped him on Ehrlich on his way to his next ministry. Zeif was the secretary of the Ministerial Committee on Settlement Affairs, and the head of the Committee for the Preservation of Farmland. When Shapira vacated the position of deputy director-general, Zeif sought it. Unfortunately, Damati was given the position, and therefore, he had to be compensated. He was appointed acting director-general for export. Since the vacancy of this position has to be announced, and there was no certainty that he would be selected for it, he arranged for himself the position of acting deputy director-general for 6 months. In this way he would gain experience.

Tzemah Yishai is one of the agricultural activists of the Liberal Party. Ehrlich appointed him water commissioner. It is evident that in the year and a half of his service as minister of agriculture, Ehrlich was very successful, possibly thanks to Amikam Shapira who was given the responsibility by Ehrlich for political appointments in the government companies. Tzemah Yishai was not considered an especially successful appointment in Ehrlich's office. They used to call him Tzemah for short.

A key personality in the Liberal Party told me this week that Grupper is about to appoint Yishai as director-general of the Ministry of Agriculture, and in this way complete a series of party appointments to director-general positions for the Liberal ministers. This personality quoted things that Grupper himself has said. The ministry denies this. According to a senior official in the Ministry of Agriculture, it is true that now Grupper is not planning to fire the director-general, Meir Ben-Meir.

Firm and Established ["Sharir Umekayaim," a play on the name "Sharir"]

I first heard the name of Avraham Sharir when I was a reporter for DAVAR in the United States in the mid-seventies. Workers in the Israeli consulate in Los Angeles claimed that there was reason to launch an investigation of the one who was the representative of the investments center in the consulate, Avraham Sharir. The material was not sufficiently documented, and the man was then unimportant. Sharir, it seems, was one of those Israeli diplomats who left behind them in the Israeli community a trail of shameful rumors.

Sharir's advancement in politics was meteoric. In August 1981 he became a minister. A ministry was reestablished for his sake. When he came to the ministry he had to fight not only the general attitude that it was not necessary to maintain the organizational apparatus of an independent ministry for tourism but also the officials that his enemy in the Liberal Party, Gideon Patt, left behind. As a minister, Gideon Patt was the pride of his officials. He avoided as much as possible party appointments of officials and relied upon the existing officialdom in the ministries that he headed. When tourism was transferred to his ministry, he gave it the structure of an administration and granted considerable independence to the government company for tourism and the other subsidiaries. In order to maintain his ministerial power, Sharir had to take over the authorities of the officials.

First, Sharir threw out Amnon Altman, the director of the Tourism Administration. Altman was a veteran civil service official. One of the greatest mistakes he made in his life was to reject the nomination of Rafi Farber for the position of deputy director of the Office of the Ministry of Tourism in New York. Farber came to the ministry together with Sharir. He was the new deputy director.

Sixty seconds on Rafi Farber: Farber is the classic example of a liberal career. Before he became the director-general of the Ministry of Tourism, he was the assistant director-general of the monthly MONAITIN. He was regarded there as a talented young man, suitable for his position, strict with the clerks. He had connections with Miki Albin, one of the Eisenberg group,

a man of the faction of Sharir, one of the newspaper owners. His two achievements that I remember were the acquisition of a telephone switchboard for the ministry and the rapid collection of money for the election advertisements from the Labor Party. When he was appointed director-general, one of the people who worked with him at MONAITIN said: "The most beautiful thing that can be said about Rafi Farber is that he was smarter than Sharir was at his age."

There is nothing wrong in the advancement of a young man from a minor administrative position in a small company to the position of director-general in a ministry. There is also nothing wrong with his young age at the time of his appointment -- 32. Two men were appointed director-general at a younger age than he, Shimon Peres by David Ben-Gurion and Yossi Vardi by Hayim Landau. The two appointments were considered to be extremely successful. Even the fact that the committee for the nomination of directors-general did not favor his nomination it did not require his rejection. Farber is a young man with a good head. Even his adversaries acknowledge this. The question is if he was aware of the limitations that the position imposes on his personal aspirations. And furthermore, what precisely is this good head working for? Farber told me in a conversation we had this week that the hostile publicity that has followed him throughout his term of service originates in, among other things jealousy of his success. Perhaps the first objective of the Sharir-Farber combination was the company for the development of tourism enterprises. They removed its chairman, Moshe Neuderfer, a resigned government official, and replaced him with Gustav Bedian, a Liberal activist. Afterward, they appointed Shlomo Tal, a Liberal activist, director-general. The struggle for the government tourism company was more difficult. One day, they suggested to the director-general of the company, Avi Barok, that he should work for the firing of the chairman, Tomi Leitersdorf. Leitersdorf was a Patt man. They suggested to the chairman that he fire the director-general. Eventually both the chairman and the director-general were fired, and both of them are working together today in a private company. The system is interesting.

The Firer and the Fired

It has been reported in one of the newspapers that Amos Lotan is about to be appointed director-general of the company as a replacement for Avi Barok who will resign. Barok said that he does not intend to resign. Lotan, the son-in-law of the leader of the Liberals in Zefat and a clear Liberal himself, served on behalf of Patt as the one in charge of his ministry's affairs in the Galilee. The position was offered to him in the context of the mutual grabbing within the Liberal Party. He was not the only candidate. Sami Tevig, former assistant to Ehrlich who also received a government company, came to Barok one day and asked him to help him be appointed as his replacement. They have already been talking about your dismissal in the party central committee, said Tevig.

Since there was not a majority in the board of directors of the government company for tourism for the firing of Barok, it was decided to make a wholesale change of the members of the board of directors. Within 5 months, 8 (of 13) new members were brought in. All of them were activists of the Liberal Party. They included Avraham Jihan, a contractor from Netanya;

Amos Lotan from Zefat; Hanoch Segev, a former assistant of Patt and a Zeidel Fund man of the Liberal Party; Shlomo Tal, a liberal activist from Giv'atayim; Matti Talit, a liberal from Yafo; Aharon Botzer, a liberal from Tel Aviv; William Zveda, a liberal from Jerusalem; and Rafi Farber. Despite the fact that with this they made certain of a majority for firing, they also put pressure on the other members of the board of directors.

As often happens with the Liberals, after a short while, the firer became the fired. Avi Barok was fired from management of the companies, and to this day he is involved in a lawsuit against those who fired him. Amos Lotan, his replacement, was kicked upstairs after a year to the position of chairman. Lotan's replacement was Efrayim Ronen, former lieutenant colonel in the air force and an expert in the construction of airfields. Ronen is not a party member. It was his brother-in-law's influence.

In the context of the first Begin government's attempt to make the work of the government more efficient, Patt attempted to gradually eliminate the seven local subsidiaries for the development of tourism and to make them subordinate to the government company for tourism. Sharir sensed immediately the latent power with the appointment of seven directors, seven directors-general, and seven persons to run the offices of the directors-general. He cancelled the decision and divided the seats that became vacant on the board of directors among local activists of his party and his faction. As was stated, Sharir's brother-in-law and his physician's son were given positions in the companies. The old Liberal MK Tzvi Renner's driver and personal assistant was appointed advisor to the minister.

Are members of the board of directors using their position to perform favors for their friends? I heard such a complaint from a former employee of the Ministry of Tourism, but I found no proof of it. However, there is an abundance of stories on the intervention of members of the board of directors in official business.

A senior official in the Ministry of Tourism told me: "They have a feeling of the end of the world. They do not believe that they will be in power again. Therefore, they will appoint and fire as many as they can. Arik Sharon dirtied himself with something big; Sharir dirties himself with something small. He is building on the fact that his area interests no one. Now I understand the meaning of the expression 'small foxes destroying the vineyards.' What is happening now in the Ministry of Tourism you will only see in nature films; The tiger takes the large pieces of his prey and goes on his way. The Liberals are the jackals who fight over the small pieces. Perhaps they are only the worms."

"Every Political Animal Wants To Advance"

Rafi Farber graciously consented to respond to my questions.

[Question] When you came to the ministry, did you deal honestly with the existing organizational apparatus?

[Answer] The ministry was in limbo, in the cellar of the Ministry of Industry, Commerce, and Tourism. Type B. People were used to the fact that the minister was distant from them, nothing was required of them. We came and made tourism something important. It is true that we demand a lot. After 2 and one-half years of work as director-general, I think the ministry is functioning as it should. During this period I also learned that there are things that are impossible to demand.

[Question] Why were so many members of the board of directors replaced?

[Answer] The directors must have the confidence of the minister. The minister did not know many of those who were sitting as directors. The minister wanted to replace people also in order for the companies to succeed, in order for them to implement his policy, and also because they shared the same ideology.

[Question] Is tourism a question of ideology?

[Answer] Tourism is an economic branch. As you know well, there are various ideologies in the economic field. There is a centralized economy, and there is an economy that encourages private initiative.

[Question] But you decided precisely on a cartel in hotel costs.

[Answer] Liberalism is not anarchy. We abandoned laissez-faire a long time ago. There has been wild competition in prices that has distorted the entire system.

I am critical of Grupper in the Meir Shamir case. Meir Shamir is an outstanding man, but he does not have to set policy. A director who comes and says that it is difficult to sell land to the people of Israel cannot carry out the liberal policy of the minister, and he must go. The government must be given the tools to implement its policy. Otherwise, for what purpose does it exist?

The minister is a political personality. Neither you nor I have discovered this. Every political animal wants to advance. If we take the Liberal Party as an example, democracy runs rampant there. In its time, there was also a nominating committee system there. It freed the ministers from pressures. Now there is democracy. There are people who think that this is one big intrigue, but this is the most democratic system. There is no doubt that people who select ministers expect reciprocation. They want to bear the burden. The party was not elected to power only for the purpose of growing ministers.

[Question] You are selecting special-interest people as directors.

[Answer] What you are saying is that only officials sat in the companies. On the contrary, a government company is a business. It must conduct itself in accordance with the best business considerations. People who understand business must sit there. Nevertheless, the Government Companies Authority checks the question of conflict of interests on every person that the minister wants to appoint as a director.

[Question] What is the contractor Jihan's involvement in the affairs of the government companies?

[Answer] Jihan is the chairman of the Control Committee. It is possible that as a contractor he has offered his help in order to sit down with the contractor who has won a contract and lower the price. His involvement is only for the good.

[Question] How is it possible that you are appointing directors only from your faction. Are there no qualified people for tourism from outside the Sharir faction?

[Answer] Not true. The directors are from all the factions in the party. Take for example the case of the (chairman of the Electric Corporation) Hago'el. He was a political appointee, a man from the Moda'i faction. Nevertheless, Moda'i does not hesitate to fire him when he thinks that he is working against him.

One of the problems in the Liberal Party is that many of the party members are businessmen. They are not ready to dedicate themselves to a public career. They are ready to be only directors.

[Question] How did it happen that the Eisenberg group received on the recommendation of the Ministry of Tourism land on the shore of the Dead Sea, the lido of Qalyah, and sold it at a huge profit right after it received it from the state?

[Answer] The attitude toward the Eisenberg group was the same as to every other investor. It must be remembered that it is not working here as a lone star. There is an apparatus that investigates every issue and makes recommendations.

[Question] However, what kind of investor is Miki Albin if he hurried to make a profit and get rid of the goods?

[Answer] What can I do? He is that kind of person.

Corfu: They Were All His Boys

The Minister of Transport is Hayim Corfu, a Herut man. Uzi Landau, son of the late minister, is the director-general. Apparently a successful appointment. Unfortunately, Landau declined to talk to us about a series of appointments that were made in the ministry in recent months. The following is the list:

Lawyer Barukh Levi, a member of the Herut Central Committee, was appointed as advisor to the minister. He sits as a representative of the ministry in handling internal and external job announcements. Another Herut activist, Moshe 'Amirav, has been appointed to head the campaign against accidents. He also handles job announcements. The presence in processing job announcements is important in order to assure that party people obtain the positions.

Take the management of the license bureaus, for example. A year ago the position of director of the license bureau in Jerusalem became vacant. There were five candidates, and all of them were rejected by the minister's people. They contributed to the appointment of Yosef Baggio, one of the Egged people, a former director of Betar in Jerusalem.

When the position of director of the license bureau in Haifa became vacant, Meir Daniel, a man close to Herut, received an acting appointment without a job announcement. The same thing happened at the license bureau in Holon. They brought in Tzvi Olvitch, a Herut activist. This week there was an announcement for this position, and to the extent that we were able to determine, Olvitch failed to be accepted. A Herut man was also appointed for the license bureau in Gaza, and he was dismissed after it became evident that the appointment would likely cause a scandal. The position of transport staff officer for Judea and Samaria is also occupied by a Herut man. On 6 November, after the finance minister's announcement of a freeze in the positions in the government organization, Shahar Shapiro was accepted in the Ministry of Transport as an advisor to the director-general. According to our information, Shapiro in the meantime went through the job announcement process and received the position of deputy director-general. In the Ministry of Transport, Tzahi Hanegbi, a Herut activist in Jerusalem, is serving as an assistant to the minister. Hanegbi has been active as a politician well beyond that which is customary for government officials. It seems that Corfu requires him primarily for his political needs within the local branch of the Herut movement.

Sharir, Corfu, and Grupper are only examples, ministers who swim with the current. In a large part of the other ministries, not in all, the processes are identical.

I heard evidence about the pressures that the officials-politicians exert on the officials-officials from Avi Barok who was a director-general in the government tourism company. "I could not tolerate a situation in which a worker who belonged to the party also stopped working," said Barok. "There was such a worker. They asked me to give him another chance. I gave it to him, and he did not take advantage of it. He thought that his affiliation with the party gave him the right not to work. I fired him, and this did not make things easy for me."

To Lower the Organizational Apparatus

Moshe Meiri, the secretary of the senior official group in the Histadrut, complains that in the Ministry of Labor 20 officials crossed the lines. They were Labor Party people, and under pressure from the TAMI administration in the ministry, they identified with or joined TAMI. Even if this number is exaggerated, the trend is not surprising. In the Ministry of Labor, the party pressure was especially great. Aharon Uzan made wholesale changes of senior officials through the circumvention of civil service regulations and against broad opposition inside and outside the government. Uzan believes that on account of what he sees as discrimination in favor of the Ashkenazim in the appointment of officials 20 and 30 years ago, the reaction must be reverse ~~d~~iscrimination in favor of the eastern communities. The significance

of his statements is a return to the zero point -- the fear and the settling of accounts in the manning of the government organizational apparatus in the early fifties. Moshe Meiri is convinced that a large number of the new appointments in the Ministry of Labor degrade the level of the government organizational apparatus. The director-general of the ministry, Asher Uhyon, for example, before his appointment was the director of the Economy Unit in the Ministry of Social Betterment. "We wanted to build a civil service," says Meiri, "a professional civil service." We wanted to establish a senior cadre administration that would be free from political tendencies. We see that the entire effort went down the drain.

"Do you know what is happening in the ministries? There is no motivation. People are looking for ways how not to work, how to find outside work. The minister can always neutralize an official who causes trouble. Therefore, the officials are doing their best not to criticize. The atmosphere is poisoned."

It's not terrible, I said, the Herutniks will come with motivation and work in their place.

"Those who bring them are involved with their political affairs, not in state affairs," said Meiri. "Officialdom is a profession, a career. A person selects a career in order to make a living from it. We cannot have a situation in which he is fearful all the time."

"The Agudat Yisrael demanded that the Likud appoint six of its people as directors-general. When they asked Avrahan Shapiro what his deputy director-general would do, he said that he would take care of our people. As of now, they have not yet satisfied this demand. In the near future they will give them their first deputy director-general in the Ministry of Religious Affairs."

As a result of these actions, the Association for Orderly Administration was established several months ago. This is an association of former senior officials, the founders of which are Moshe Zanbar, Judge Tzvi Berenson, Ya'akov Nitzan, Yitzhaq Livni, Dr Elimelekh Rimalt, Renana Gutman, and Herzl Shafir. Unquestionably a distinguished list. Ya'akov (Richie) Nitzan, who was the civil service commissioner for 10 years, claims that during the period of his service, the government organizational apparatus did not have any of the subversions that are now happening. "They want to return the situation to the fifties," says Nitzan. "They don't understand that it is impossible to move backward."

"They are now changing the composition of the job announcement committees. The change of the lists of people who are members of the committees will guarantee them the appointments they desire in a legal veneer. There is a committee in the Herut central committee that has been established by the hotelman Hayim Shiff. Every position that is vacated in the civil service is referred to the committee, and it sends candidates."

"With us there was never a case in which the head of a government company would be the head of a party branch. It did happen that ministers selected people whose views were close to those of the minister. However, heads of

branches were not appointed to government companies, and internal competitions did not take place within the companies as happened between David Levi and Yitzhaq Shamir."

In recent weeks, the Association for Orderly Administration has sent letters to the civil service commissioner and the various ministers in which it complains about appointments in violation of civil service regulations and about the conduct of persons brought in by the ministers who are not qualified to be government officials. The ministers are in no hurry to respond to the association. One of the difficulties of the association in its appeal to the civil service commissioner is that the commissioner, Avraham Natan, embodies in his career much of what angers the association. He is a Herut activist in Lod whose experience in the supervision of workers far from qualifies him for the position of commissioner. His appointment did not stop him from continuing to participate in meetings on behalf of Herut and from being active in party politics. In early December, Natan participated in a meeting designed to protest discrimination against members of the Herut movement in appointments to senior government positions. At the meeting, favorable comments were made about the civil service commissioner. "We have no complaints about him," it was said there. "He knows how to make certain that government workers close to us will not be hurt."

The main counter-argument that the Likud people present against the complaints is that the MAPAI acted the same way. They are right to an extent. The tragedy is that they want to return the state to the sad low point, and they think that in this way they are taking historical revenge against the previous administration. The norms of the MAPAI tortured us with whips, and the Likud has tortured us with scorpions. Instead of their being faithful to the view that a society must improve itself, they are pulling vigorously on the reverse handle.

It seems that besides the damage and the waste involved in the appointment of unqualified people to government positions, there are two difficult ancillary results in the dividing up of the organizational apparatus booty among the activists of the coalition parties. The process contributes enormously to the corruption of the parties in power, and especially to the two parties that only exist as booty departments -- the Liberals and TAMI. Actually, these two parties have become a less effective version of the Agudat Yisrael, with the difference that the Agudat Yisrael divides up cash and they divide it in the form of honors, favors, and salaries. The second damage is to the health of the civil service. It took 30 painful years until the organizational apparatus acquired its own self-respect. The self-respect raised the level of fairness, contributed to morale, and attracted good people to civil service positions. In the recent years of prosperity, the attractiveness of the civil service in comparison with the private market naturally declined. The Eshkol and Sapir children in the Treasury were not followed by the Aridor or Hurvitz children. The change of administration created an ethical problem for officials who found it difficult to work wholeheartedly for a policy which did not excite them. However, the career remained, and much of the respect remained. Now, the Levantinization of the norms has come, and it is destroying the rest. I am certain that the Likud wanted to replace the Alignment officials with better ones. When the Likud did not have good officials, it brought in poor officials. The Likud wanted to elevate the organizational apparatus. Actually, it lowered it.

BRIEFS

DUTCH SUBMARINE PURCHASE--The transaction involving the sale of two submarines that was recently arranged by the Wilton Fijenoord Dockyard in Rotterdam and the government of Taiwan was designed to serve as an intermediate step for a transaction between the dockyard and the IDF, the real purchaser, according to the NRC HANDELSBLAD, one of the principal newspapers of The Netherlands. The transaction involved submarines of the Sea Dragon type, an advanced development of the Swordfish now in the service of NATO. The Dutch dockyard has previously sold two submarines of this type to Taiwan, and it is now known that negotiations are under way for the purchase of two others. In a conversation with a MA'ARIV reporter, Mr Fisher, the director of the dockyards in Rotterdam, denied the rumors of the existence of any connection between his dockyard and Israel. Nevertheless, he confirmed that the Taiwanese intend to buy new submarines. The sale of weapons to countries in a state of war like Israel is prohibited in The Netherlands. [By Ofra Yeshua-Layit] [Text] [Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 21 Dec 83 p 4] 5830

WATER RESERVOIRS EMPTY--The extended drought has stunted the growth of crops in Israel. In some of the fields there have been no buds at all while many others have withered, and in the Negev, many areas had to be resown, according to a statement yesterday by the director of the Field Crops Department of the Ministry of Agriculture, David Ariel. According to him, the field crops in Israel should have already been in a state of "vigorous growth," and because of the drought, in the southern part of the country 3 weeks of "normal growth" have been lost, even if there are heavy rains tomorrow. More than 200 artificial reservoirs, in which rainwater is collected during the winter season, are now completely empty, and the Mekorot Company is supplying large volumes of water to the Negev for irrigation, almost exactly as in the summer. Because of the extended drought, Mekorot can not now begin the subterranean insertion of water surpluses in order to enrich the ground water. The extended drought is increasing the growing hydrological deficit that already amounts to 1.5 billion cubic centimeters of water. It has been reported that the Mekorot Company cannot begin artificial rainmaking because of the lack of rain clouds. In comparison with "normal years," the drought is worrying the farmers, and the water economy is now in "serious condition," according to a Mekorot spokesman. [By Aharon Periel] [Text] [Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 21 Dec 83 p 21] 5830

LAYOFFS AT ARKIA--The Arkia Company is about to lay off a number of pilots because of a reduction in the activity of the company in the winter and a decline both in the number of passengers flying abroad and the number of intra-country passengers on the line to Elat. Yesterday the Arkia management was about to complete the sale of a Boeing 737 passenger plane to the British Dan Air Company in a tax deal according to British law. For this plane Arkia will receive \$18 million. The money that Arkia has received for this plane and for one that it previously sold has reduced Arkia's debts by almost \$30 million. [By David Moshiyuv] [Text] [Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 22 Dec 83 p 4] 5830

5830

CSO: 4423/28

SURPLUS ON BALANCE OF PAYMENTS NARROWS

Beirut THE ARAB WORLD WEEKLY in English No 703, 21 Jan 84 pp 18-19

[Text] Kuwait's balance of payments recorded a sharp narrowing of the surplus in the fiscal year ending June 30, 1983, mainly due to the substantial drop in the country's revenue from crude oil exports and petrodollars invested abroad, according to the annual report of the Central Bank of Kuwait.

The bank said Kuwait's surpluses fell to \$3.4 billion in its balance of trade, \$7.1 billion in its goods and services balance and \$5.8 billion in its current accounts.

Though Kuwait was recording a decline in the balance of payments surplus for the second successive year, the surpluses attained were 61 percent below the previous fiscal year's levels in the balance of trade, 52 percent below in the goods and services balance and 56 percent in the current account, according to the bank report.

The bank attributed the decline to a number of factors, most important of which were the following:

- A decrease in the value of oil exports by 38 percent on account of the decline in the volume of crude oil exports by 20 percent and in crude oil prices by 9 percent.
- A retreat in the government investment income by around 27 percent due to the considerable drop in the rates of interest at international markets and the marked rise in the share of foreign official loans (carrying negligible interest) within total government investments abroad.

Hit by sluggish world demand for oil, member states of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries, including Kuwait, were obliged to cut back production and slash oil prices last year. With a 1.2 million b/d OPEC-decreed production quota, Kuwait produced an average daily output of 863,000 barrels in the fiscal year 1982-83, the Central Bank said.

The report did not mention figures for revenues obtained from foreign investments, but earlier reports put them at about \$6 billion. Kuwait succeeded

over the past decade in collecting about \$70 billion in surplus petrodollars that are currently invested mainly in the forms of equity shares, real estate government bonds and bank balances in the United States, West Germany and other European and Arab countries.

Kuwait's latest two marathon foreign investment ventures were the takeover of the US Santa Fe Corp. for \$2.5 billion and the purchase of the Gulf Oil Corp.'s downstream operations in Benelux and Scandinavian countries.

The Kuwait Petroleum Company, which earlier this month reached an agreement in principle for the purchase of Gulf Italiana's operations, is reportedly conducting talks with the American major to purchase its British holdings.

Kuwait was the least affected among OPEC member states by the recent oil crisis resulting from slack world demand for oil. The Kuwaitis, who by world standards have been successfully administering their foreign investments abroad, hope their income from these investments would one day become their key source of income after oil is depleted. Their revenues from foreign investments reached a peak of \$8 billion in the fiscal year 1981-82, ending June 1982.

CSO: 4400/149

EXPORTS TO GCC STATES FALLS

Beirut THE ARAB WORLD WEEKLY in English No 703, 21 Jan 84 p 19

[Text] Kuwaiti exports to Arab countries dropped from a previous record of \$313.6 million registered in 1982 to some \$186.6 million last year, a fall of 40.5 percent, it was reported Monday.

According to foreign trade statistics released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the bulk of Kuwaiti exports went to the Gulf Cooperation Council states which accounted for 71.8 percent of the overall export trade or the equivalent of \$134.8 million.

The amount represents an 11.2 percent increase over the 1982 figure for exports to the five GCC states including Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Qatar, Bahrain and Oman.

The statistics show that Saudi Arabia was Kuwait's principal trade partner last year with imports accounting for \$36.1 million, an increase of 11.5 percent over the figures of 1982. Exports included mainly prefabricated houses, car chassis and other manufactured goods such as dyes and ready made clothes.

In comparison Kuwaiti exports to Iraq fell drastically during 1983 (by 73.3 percent). Export lists showed that Kuwait did not ship any cement to Iraq in 1983, contrary to the situation in 1982. In 1981 Kuwaiti export trade with Iraq peaked with goods worth \$114.6 million being sold.

CSO: 4400/149

LEBANESE-EGYPTIAN ECONOMIC NEGOTIATIONS DESCRIBED

London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic No 37, 24 Dec 83 pp 24-25

[Article by Ibrahim 'Awwadah: "Lebanese-Egyptian Economic Relations Are Resumed--With an Apple Deal"]

[Text] In the last week of last November, an Egyptian economic mission from the government-owned Nile Company for Agricultural Exports arrived in Beirut. The delegation was led by Mr Fawzi 'Abd al-Shahid. During the 4 days it spent in Beirut, the mission held intensive meetings with Lebanese officials from the foreign trade sector. Among the most important persons with whom discussions were held were the minister of the economy and trade, Mr Ibrahim Halawi, the minister of agriculture, Engineer Bayyar al-Khuri, and the chairman of the National Council for Foreign Economic Relations, Mr Sami Marun. The talks dealt with the subject of Egypt importing a quantity of Lebanese apples, in addition to some other agricultural goods.

The visit by the Egyptian delegation led to the signing of the first official trade agreement between the Egyptian and Lebanese governments. The agreement calls for Egypt to import a quantity of Lebanese apples worth \$15 million. In return, Lebanon is to buy Egyptian fertilizers and leather goods, as well as some kinds of fruit and vegetables, all of which has a total value of \$15 million as well.

The signing of this agreement follows an official rupture of economic relations between Egypt and Lebanon which lasted about 2 and one-half years and began when the Egyptian government, on 13 October 1981, unilaterally cancelled the commercial protocol it had signed with Lebanon in 1965. This agreement was revived, beginning last October after it was agreed to reform some of its provisions by the end of this year, 1983.

Official authorities in both Egypt and Lebanon gave special importance to the signing of this agreement, since they saw in it a first, advanced step toward restoring normal economic and commercial relations between the two countries, after a period in which these ties were somewhat slack, due to two different matters. The first matter was the Arab economic boycott of Egypt, which followed Egypt's signing of the Camp David accords. The second matter consisted of the Egyptian government's unilateral repudiation in 1981 of the commercial protocol it had with Lebanon.

In reality, the process of reviving the provisions of the commercial protocol between Lebanon and Egypt went through a long and difficult stage of intensive negotiations which were held during the last 2 years by the Egyptian and Lebanese governments. The negotiations dealt with a comprehensive re-evaluation of "the commercial relations which link the two countries, as well as building and developing these relations on balanced and firm foundations, without reference to any prior political problems." The Lebanese side, in its capacity as the party injured first by the cancellation of the commercial protocol with Egypt, took the initiative. On 18 January 1982, a delegation from the Association of Industrialists led by Mr Joseph Ghurrah, the vice-chairman of the commission, made a preliminary visit to the Egyptian capital. The goal of the visit was to discover the background of the Egyptian decision.

At that time, the delegation met with the new minister of the economy and foreign trade, Dr Fu'ad Hashim, as well as with the delegated trade minister in the Ministry of the Economy and Foreign Trade, Mr Ra'uf Muhammad 'Ali, who signed the order cancelling the concessions and exemptions granted to Lebanon's exports to Egypt in accordance with the 1965 protocol.

In these two meetings, the delegation concentrated on the humane and historical aspects of the relations which bind together Egypt and Lebanon, out of a desire to revive the provisions of the protocol, thereby supporting and deepening the special relations between the two countries, so that their continuity can be affirmed, especially now when Lebanon is experiencing difficult economic circumstances.

For his part, Mr Ra'uf Muhammad 'Ali explained his point of view on the subject, which can be summarized as follows:

1. The protocol of 1965 annulled the payments agreement and the tourism agreement of 1956, but made no mention of the trade agreement signed in 1956.

2. On the basis of article 6 of the protocol signed in 1959, the joint commission was summoned to a meeting held in Beirut in 1980, during which agreement was reached on all subjects. The most prominent of them were:

- reclassifying the schedules attached to the agreement, and carrying out some changes in them

- The Egyptian side, according to an appendix attached to the protocol, demanded that accounts be opened in the Egyptian Central Bank and the Bank of Lebanon, in order to take care of some settlements dealing with exchanged goods (practically speaking, this required opening a clearing account). However, the Lebanese side did not respond to this request. Consequently, although the protocol signed in 1970 was finalized by the concerned authorities in both countries, finalization documents were not exchanged in the manner called for in the protocol.

3. Therefore, since Lebanon, by failing to agree to the extension of the agreement, did not satisfy the request of the Egyptian side as stated above,

which can be considered tantamount to an official desire by one of the parties, the Egyptian side believes it has the right to freeze the concessions it granted, until such time as agreement is reached on the related issues (that is, the clearing account).

The Egyptian minister suggested to the delegation from the Association of Industrialists that it contact the concerned authorities at the Bank of Lebanon so that direct talks might be opened with the Egyptian Central Bank in order to solve the problem produced by the failure of the Lebanese government to agree to the Egyptian request. If the two banks were to agree on the solution of this issue, then it would be possible to complete the measures for applying the provisions of the protocol.

The association's delegation followed up its visit to Egypt with another. Once again, it met with Dr Fu'ad Hashim, the minister of the economy and foreign trade, who evinced his understanding of the delegation's point of view on the necessity of revitalizing the 1965 protocol. He affirmed his readiness to review the decision about which the delegation was complaining, saying he would do so as soon as circumstances allowed. He asked the Lebanese delegation to discuss the details of the matter with the first deputy of the Ministry of the Economy and Foreign Trade, Mr 'Adil al-Jarihi, in the presence of the ministry's delegated minister, Dr Muhammad al-Mintawi.

At this meeting, the Egyptian side affirmed its desire to resolve this issue and apply once again the provisions of the 1965 protocol, under the condition that the following matters be taken care of:

First: an affirmation that Lebanon will still apply the provisions of the above-mentioned protocol.

Second: a clarification of Lebanon's position on facilitating transportation and transit between the Arab countries.

Third: granting assurances that decisive measures will be taken to make sure that certificates of origin are accurate, with the Association of Lebanese Industrialists giving a guarantee of the same.

After the delegation's return to Beirut, the Association of Industrialists drew up a detailed report on the results of its talks with Egyptian officials. It submitted the report to the then-minister of economy and trade, Mr Khalid Junblatt, who submitted it in turn to the Lebanese cabinet.

As a result of the political and security-related events which followed each other in quick succession in Lebanon beginning in the fourth month of 1982, especially the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, with all its political and security-related repercussions for Lebanon, the contacts between the Lebanese and Egyptian governments were frozen until Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil took over the presidency of the country in September 1982. At that time, the contacts regained their momentum as a result of the good relationship between the Lebanese president and Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, which paved the way for the visit made by the Lebanese minister of the economy, Mr Ibrahim Halawi,

to Egypt last May. During that visit, he delivered a personal letter from the Lebanese president to the Egyptian president concerning political developments in the Lebanese issue.

Minister Halawi capitalized on his presence in the Egyptian capital to hold quick meetings with the Egyptian minister of the economy and commercial cooperation between the two countries on the basis of the revitalization of the provisions of the 1965 protocol. This time, Minister Halawi's request met with understanding. It was agreed to continue the discussion of the topic at a later time.

At the beginning of last October, Minister Halawi once again visited Egypt. He held a round of lengthy discussions with his counterpart, the Egyptian minister of the economy. The way for these talks had been paved in a visit made by the chairman of the National Council for Foreign Economic Relations, Mr Sami Marun. As a result of these talks, an agreement to amend the 1964 protocol by the end of 1983 was signed. This came after personal intervention by the Egyptian president, whose firm position was that Lebanon had to be supported on various levels. It was agreed that Egypt would take the first step in affirmation of the success of the negotiations by buying a quantity of Lebanese apples worth US \$15 million. And this is what happened.

Here is a table showing the development of the magnitude of trade between Egypt and Lebanon from 1976 to 1982:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Lebanese Exports to Egypt</u> (1000 Lebanese pounds)	<u>Egyptian Exports to Lebanon</u>
1976	11,712	5,769
1977	9,840	4,472
1978	11,660	7,692
1979	12	no customs data showing export volume exist
1980	13	no customs data showing export volume exist
1981	26	no customs data showing export volume exist
1982	24	no customs data showing export volume exist

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CSO: 4404/254

CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION IN TRIPOLI EXAMINED

London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic No 39, 7 Jan 84 pp 10-11

[Article: "Tripoli is Trying to Remove the Effects of the Palestinian War and Prepare for National Reconciliation"]

[Excerpt] The basic question being asked by the Lebanese now that 'Arafat and his men have left does not concern his destiny or that of PLO in the aftermath of Tripoli, but the fate of Tripoli after 'Arafat.

For the departure of 'Arafat and his fighters does not mean that no more conflicts or disputes exist among the local armed factions within the second Lebanese capital, especially since the war against 'Arafat might be continued in his absence against his allies. This is what observers expect and many politicians, leaders and officials in Lebanon fear.

The dominant impression in a number of Lebanese and Western diplomatic circles is that the decisive battle of Tripoli did not end with 'Arafat's departure. Rather, his departure may have been the fundamental indicator of the battle's beginning.

Round about Tripoli are thousands of Palestinian fighters led by the rebels. In the heart of the city are several local armed groups which differ as to orientation, allegiance, policy and goals. 'Arafat himself left the impression that it was possible for a battle to break out after his departure from Tripoli. Thus, he gave his ally, the "amir" of the Unification Movement, Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban, a large share of the heavy, medium and light-weight weapons which were in his possession. Thus, he contradicted his own statement to the effect that he had given all these arms to the Lebanese Army.

A former prime minister says that the seeds of armed conflict are still present in Tripoli, and that the other side of the conflict being waged for influence in the city still exists. The Syrians, who expelled 'Arafat from Tripoli, also want to put an end to the influence of his Tripoli allies, especially the Unification Movement. Damascus believes that the movement's supporters will amount to a source of internal difficulties for it if they remain in the city, which is close to the border with Syria.

One of the leaders in Tripoli opposed to Syrian policy in Tripoli believes that the Syrian capital, which won its battle against Abu 'Ammar, also wants to win its battle against those who oppose it in Tripoli, so that it will have the last word, not only in the capital of northern Lebanon, but in all of Lebanon.

Lebanese political leaders and officials think it will be possible to spare Tripoli further bloodshed and destruction if the reconciliation agreement is implemented. The agreement was worked out by representatives of the factions under the leader of former Prime Minister Rashid Karami in Damascus. The meeting was attended by two representatives of the Islamic Unification Movement, which is headed by Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban. It is considered the primary opponent of Syria's policy in the city. The agreement calls for the elimination of armed actions and fortifications and the collection of the heavy arms owned by all the factions, under the supervision of a special commission in which the Lebanese state will participate. The board will consist of the members of the "Tripoli Coordinatin Council," which is headed by Rashid Karami. Politicians have given Karami the nickname "Godfather." They expect him to gain more than anyone else from Abu 'Ammar's departure from Tripoli, just as former Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam was the big winner after the siege of Beirut and the first exodus of the Palestinians from the Lebanese capital, as a result of which some have given him the nickname "President of the Republic of West Beirut."

However, Karami knows that he will not be able to enjoy a similar title until he is able to complete what he has begun with respect to the city, which paid a high price as a result of the struggle waged by the "brothers" around it, in it and for it. First he must eliminate the aftereffects of the battles and succeed in deepening the Tripoliti reconciliation whose foundations were laid in the Damascus agreement. One of the articles in this agreement calls for turning the security duties in the city over to the internal security forces, which are to be supported by the Syrian forces stationed around it.

The return of Rashid Karami from Damascus to Tripoli would be considered a positive sign in this regard. However, it will not happen until the "tension" which appeared following the departure of the Palestinian fighters disappears and the problems which have blocked the completion of the reconciliation are vanquished.

The main temporary problem has to do with the guarantees which the Unification Movement wants to obtain before laying down its arms. These guarantees are being requested from the Syrian side, which in turn wants to be sure that Tripoli will be loyal to it, instead of remaining a base from which to stir up troubles for the government in Syria. As for the most important and broadest ranging problem it is the issue of the complete Lebanese solution, which is supposed to be drawn up by the second Lebanese dialogue conference. It is expected that the conference will be held soon in order to establish the foundations of the Lebanese system of the future.

Therefore, observers in the Lebanese capital believe that the security solution being worked out for Tripoli will be temporary in nature, especially since the chance that responsibility for security affairs in the city will be turned over to the Lebanese Army is slight. Nevertheless, a number of leaders in Tripoli, among them Deputy 'Abd al-Majid al-Rafi'i and Faruq al-Muqaddam, want the Lebanese Army to be responsible for security there in the coming stage. Indeed, some of them want Greater Tripoli, like Greater Beirut, to be placed under the supervision of this army after all the factions lay down their weapons and submit to the power of the legitimate authorities.

However, the average people of Tripoli, who were the biggest losers in the former situation and had money, human life and stability taken from them, have not waited for the situation in their city to stabilize completely before daring to return to normal life. As soon as the ships carrying 'Arafat and his fighters vanished on the expanse of the sea, life began to return quickly to Tripoli. Tens of thousands of refugees who left their homes at the height of the battle for safer places in al-Kurah, al-Batrun, Beirut and other parts of Lebanon came back. This process proceeded side by side with that of removing the effects of the destruction which descended on whole quarters such as Bab 'al-Tubana' and al-Zahiriya, where 'Arafat had his headquarters, as well as the port and other parts of the city which were exposed to battles, artillery fire and rockets.

Although the magnitude of the losses cannot be determined with precision, they are estimated in hundreds of millions of Lebanese pounds. The losses sustained by Tripoli's refinery alone amount to about a billion pounds, according to the experts making the initial estimates.

It is true that most of those returning have begun to remove the effects of the destruction suffered by their homes, businesses and possessions. However, all seem cautious and fearful of any new security setback.

The factors and causes behind the conflict, as well as its instruments, are still present on the ground. The "Tripoliti fuse" can still be lit. True reconciliation can only be completed by the return of the legitimate authorities and Lebanese sovereignty to the capital of the north in full measure. As the returning people of Tripoli put it, no other party should take part.

This will only happen if the Lebanese Army takes the reins of events in the ill-fated city into its hands, according to one of Tripoli's leaders.

In anticipation of that, any other "peace" or reconciliation will be fragile and open to setbacks and a new flare-up of conflict.

This is what all fear and wish to prevent!

LEADER OF LEBANESE RESISTANCE INTERVIEWED

Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 4 Jan 84 p 19

[Interview with Hamzah Abu Hashim, a leader of the Lebanese National Resistance Party, by the Kuwaiti News Agency (KUNA): "The Lebanese Resistance: 'We Are Everyone and No One; We Are Present Everywhere, But We Wear the Cap of Invisibility'"; date and place not specified]

[Text] The Kuwaiti News Agency [KUNA] has an interview with one of the leaders of the Lebanese National Resistance Front, which the agency said prefers to do work which imposes its results, even on the Israeli news media, "since our operations announce themselves by themselves."

KUNA described the interview with elements of the Lebanese resistance as "a conversation with specters." The resistance personnel said, "We are everyone and no one. This is how the soldiers of the occupation see us. We are everywhere, but we wear the cap of invisibility."

KUNA said: "The Lebanese National Liberation Front is known by its silent, heroic acts."

By means of its daily confrontation with the bases of the Israeli occupation in southern Lebanon, the front has achieved a qualitative leap beyond planting explosives, throwing bombs and firing machine guns. It has reached the level on which confrontations, fights and clashes are carried out in broad daylight in the form of strikes which hurt the enemy and force him to think about withdrawing.

Concerning the Beginning

KUNA's interview with Mr Hamzah Abu Hashim, one of the leaders of the "specters," dealt with the birth and formation of the Lebanese National Resistance Front, as well as with its goals, its style of operations, the sources of its arms, and the affection of the masses for it.

[Question] Hamzah Abu Hashim smiled when he was asked whether he had taken part in one of the front's operations.

[Answer] That's one way of putting it.

[Question] The "specter" spoke about the birth of the front.

[Answer] Before the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, the Lebanese National Movement, the Amal Movement and the Palestinian movement had forces known as the joint forces. After the invasion, they no longer existed in the form of a structure and military formations. Resistance could no longer be carried out in the same old ways by using artillery and machine guns. That is, conventional confrontation was impossible.

He added that since 6 June 1982, when the enemy occupied parts of the south, people began to think about organizing to confront the enemy. This is the framework which was later called the Lebanese National Resistance.

Abu Hashim added: The Lebanese National Resistance front is now actually not an organization. Nor is it a party, a front, an organized body, a group or a power. Rather, it is all these things in one.

Framework of Combating Israel

By way of clarification, he said: We are both remnants of forces that used to exist and remnants created by the Israeli occupation. Among all these remnants, political and religious groups play an important role under various names in the struggle against the occupation. A number of these groups attempt to coordinate their activities within a military context instead of a political one. No matter if one's motivation is nationalist, pan-Arab or religious, the field of battle lies open. We extend our hand to anyone who agrees to fight Israel, even if we disagree with him in terms of ideology and politics.

Abu Hashim said: In my opinion, this is one of the best positive accomplishments which the occupation has produced, because these forces and remnants have unanimously agreed to combat a single, common enemy. In the face of KUNA's insistent attempts to clarify the identity of these "heroic ghosts," Hamzah said good naturedly: "We are not Pakistanis, Iranians or Afghans. We are a riddle which has gathered together what was left of the people present here, both men and women. We come from the National Movement, the Amal Movement, religious forces, other groups, and some elements from some factions of the Palestinian resistance.

The Southern Theater

[Question] Abu Hashim went on to speak about the theater of daily operations, which take the form of confrontation, planting explosives, throwing grenades, civil resistance and acts of solidarity.

[Answer] Southern Lebanon, as a result of what happened there for several years, was the primary area for making armed bases. Historically, the fact that it was the northern gateway of Palestine has involved it deeply in the Arab-Israeli struggle.

He said that the Lebanese Resistance Front has derived benefit from the mistakes of the past, for guerilla warfare has certain laws. One cannot speak about guerilla warfare without taking these laws into account. One of them is that the individual guerilla should be able to direct a blow against his enemy and then disappear.

He added: A worker can work at his factory and at the same time throw a bomb at an enemy patrol and go back home in a normal fashion. Similarly, a farmer can farm his land and at the same time observe an enemy patrol, in order to strike at it.

The important thing is the people. They are now completely prepared to shelter and hide those who combat Israel. This is what enables the fighters to aim their daily blows and then disappear.

People Are Demanding to Take Part

[Question] Concerning the sources of arms, Hamzah had this to say:

[Answer] Basically, they are here. They will continue to be available, because we finance ourselves independently. The differences between today and yesterday is that we are not fighting with artillery and rocket launchers. Instead, we use simple but effective means.

[Question] Concerning the goals of the front, he said the following:

[Answer] Our goal is to liberate the land and attack the Israeli occupiers so as to drive them from it. Although some fighters have divergent goals, all our goals are currently unified under the slogan of striking and expelling the Israeli occupiers.

Our numbers are constantly increasing, although we look for quality more than quantity. It is no exaggeration to say that all of southern Lebanon has gone over to the resistance. Perhaps it has done so in different ways, including armed resistance and civil resistance, which takes the form of strikes and the boycotting of Israeli goods and products. All these aspects supplement and complete each other and are necessary for the armed resistance we are engaged in.

He pointed out that some relatives of the Lebanese National Resistance Front's fighters are asking to take part in military operations against the enemy.

He explained that some fighters began to practice their operations without letting their families know. When their relations learned of it, they encouraged them to continue.

He pointed out that the primary target of the resistance is the Israeli military and security-related presence. Thus, the Israeli occupiers are trying to find people to cooperate with them in uncovering the cells of the Lebanese National Resistance Front. Israel has long, historic experience in creating an apparatus and agents, building up an intelligence network, and finding cooperative persons.

He said Israel has tried to use various means of inducing and terrorizing people to cooperate with it. If we except the phenomenon of Sa'd Haddad and some elements of his group which belong to the eighth battalion of the Lebanese army, as well as some militias from some villages inhabited by Christians, such as al-Qali'ah, 'Ulama al-Sha'b, Dibil, 'Ayn Ibil, Rumaysh, etc., Israel has succeeded only with some individuals. Some of them are insane and some have been beguiled, while others were hurt by the joint forces before the invasion. Consequently, the attempt to create sectarian militias similar to the Christian militias has not succeeded. This is shown by the "National Guard," the "Shi'ite Army," and the "Sunni Army." These phenomena have been rejected and dismissed by all of our people and kin in southern Lebanon.

Following an Agent Costs More

[Question] He explained the following with respect to those cooperating with Israel:

[Answer] They are dealt with on the basis of a precise, conscious study of all the circumstances in which they find themselves as individuals. After that, each case is handled individually.

Some are contacted by certain means so that they can be deterred with peaceful methods. In other cases, we contact their families, in order to guide them and bring them back from the false path they are on. That is, we give them a chance to turn back. The most dangerous ones are those whom the enemy has been able to involve in acts of murder, defamation and terrorism. They are informed in order to deter them. Otherwise, we handle them as enemies. We have succeeded in returning some of those who have cooperated with the enemy to the proper road.

Hamzah Abu Hashim pointed out that following an agent costs more in time and effort than following an Israeli patrol does.

[Question] We returned to the elements of the resistance front and the "ghosts." In this regard he pointed out the following:

[Answer] Members are chosen by testing and investigation, so that we can be sure they are trustworthy, because we do not scorn the ability of the enemy and the measures he takes to penetrate the forces of those opposed to him. Consequently, a recruit passes through stages of testing which show his worthiness.

Our fighters do not want salaries, villas or automobiles. The world's money does not tempt them. Indeed, some of them are so enthusiastic about resisting the occupation that they undertake individual actions.

He pointed out the success of the daily operations, the switch to the style of confrontation at close quarters in broad daylight and in front of people, and the fact that no prisoners are taken and few human losses are sustained, noting that all this indicates the worthiness of the fighters and the precise organization of the operations.

[Question] He had this to say about the Israeli reactions, which have taken the form of burning gardens and destroying buildings:

[Answer] The cause of all the pain, suffering and loss is not the resistance to the occupation, but the occupiers themselves.

Media Is Not Our Goal

Liberation has a price. He who pays the price in blood pays as well in the form of olive and orange trees and arrests. Neither the Security Council nor the Arab League nor the Lebanese authorities can force Israel to withdraw. Therefore, the people who are collapsing under the occupation must resist it and pay the price of liberation, especially when the Lebanese state refuses to do anything.

We know our capabilities well. Moreover, we know what our enemy can do. According to traditional calculations of power, we are no match for Israel, but in accordance with the calculations of the peoples, their will and their sacrifices, we are sure of victory.

Israel does not announce its real losses. The media announce no more than a third of its actual losses, although our daily operations announce themselves by themselves. Our goal is not to inform. Rather, we want to strike painful blows at the Israeli ranks.

By way of a conclusion, Mr Hamzah Abu Hashim greeted a Palestinian organization which is active, engages in resistance through guerilla warfare, and plays a coordinating role among the groups, forces and remnants which are resisting the Israelis. He said: "In the name of the people, we greet this organization without mentioning its name, because we believe only in action."

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CSO: 4404/246

DRUZE LEADER FAYSAL ARSALAN INTERVIEWED

London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic No 39, 7 Jan 84 pp 15-16

[Interview with Amir Faysal Arsalan, a prominent Druze leader, by Joseph Qasifi: "The Palestinians Left the Mountain for the Southern Suburb, and I am the Only Leader of the Arsalan Following"; date and place not specified]

[Text] [Question] Some say that Christian -- Druze coexistence in the mountain is impossible in the aftermath of the recent events, which were accompanied by atrocities, horrors and expulsion. What is your opinion?

[Answer] When the artificial barriers are removed and normal life is resumed, we will judge whether coexistence is possible or not. In the capital of Beirut, both Christians and Druze are to be found. Most of them dwell in the same areas, or at least in neighboring areas. We note that coexistence there has not been abandoned, though it has become tarnished by a certain amount of anxiety and caution. In my opinion, when both sides lay down their rifles, the Lebanese will be able to come together.

[Question] You rarely make statements these days. Is this the result of a semi-isolation imposed on you by your moderate positions, or have the currently prominent Druze leaders imposed it upon you?

[Answer] Moderation is the path and line of Arsalan politics. It has been that way for 1,200 years. Perhaps this line accounts for the continued leadership of the House of Arsalan within the Druze sect in particular and Lebanese society in general. We have seen with our own eyes where extremism leads. These days, the word "moderation" is never heard, while extremism is widespread. In this kind of atmosphere, moderates appear to be isolated. When the reasons for this isolation are examined, then the true nature of the positions and forces becomes clear to everyone. I do not consider myself to be isolated. That I am not is demonstrated by the continuous contact made with me by officials, leaders and political figures, in addition to the daily visits of citizens from various regions.

[Question] Because of your political position, you could undertake actions which would bring the Christians and Druze together for the sake of the salvation of Lebanon and the return of the mountain to its inhabitants. Why do you not take the initiative?

[Answer] I have said before that I am perfectly prepared to bring people together. However, the moderate line I follow is unfortunately not meeting with success right now with any of the factions. I am not prepared to engage adventurously in a maneuver which is destined to fail. However, I will exploit the right opportunity to undertake whatever actions will dispel the clouds and gradually return clarity to the sky of Christian -- Druze relations. My conscious is at peace, may God be praised. I am able to travel in the Christian, Druze and Islamic regions. This is something which many political notables from the various Lebanese sects cannot do.

[Question] After your recent meeting with former President Camille Sham'un, you expressed your fear that the mountain could separate from the other parts of the country. Does that mean we are about to see a Druze state based in Mount Lebanon be declared?

[Answer] When I say the mountain, I mean the entire mountain. It is well known that the mountain takes in six districts. However, it seems that some people are reading only part of my statements and stopping at the rest. I am fearful that the danger of secession will assume a concrete form if the economic, health-related and security-related blockade which has been imposed on the mountain continues. The solution is to open the roads and reconnect the mountain to the capital, which is the nation's throbbing heart.

[Question] But is not the mountain currently connected to Syria?

[Answer] Syria is a neighbor. However, what concerns me is that the mountain should be connected to Lebanon. If we accept the logic whereby it is connected to Syria, then it is connected to other places as well.

[Question] Do you mean Israel?

[Answer] Of course, but its connection with Syria is stronger and the road leading from it to Damascus is less dangerous.

[Question] Israeli officials maintain that the relationship between the Jewish state and the Druze in Lebanon, the Golan and the occupied territories is good, firm and continuous. They say that their alliance with the Druze has a strategic character. What do you say?

[Answer] These people should leave me in peace. First they threaten me and then they caress me.

[Question] Walid Junblatt and Shaykh Muhammad Abu Shaqra have announced the lifting of the siege of Dayr al-Qamar. Some think that this step points toward a final "Druzification" of the Shuf and the removal of the Christians from Dayr al-Qamar. What is your opinion?

[Answer] I will not spend time on words. We must reverse the expulsion of the mountain's Christians. If the road is not opened quickly and in a coordinated manner, nothing will remain in Dayr al-Qamar. We must assure

tranquility for all the mountain's towns and villages and provide its besieged inhabitants with everything they need for a secure and dignified life. Those who are under siege must return to their villages and homes. So as to be just, I will say that a mutual exodus is taking place. In the district of 'Aliyah, for example, 64 villages have lost their Druze and Christian inhabitants. The solution is to open the roads, connect the towns, provide security, and allow the inhabitants of the mountain to go to and from the city.

Amir Faysal Arsalan continued his answer by explaining the following:

The problem of the mountain, which includes that of Dayr al-Qamar and the other mountain villages in the Shuf and 'Aliyah, must be solved. As long as everyone is calling for a political solution, why don't they undertake one? The signs of economic disaster have begun to appear. From Khaldah to Sawfar, the mountain has been hit by destruction and expulsion, just like the markets in Beirut.

[Question] But the logical solution is for the Lebanese Army to enter the mountain, especially the international highway and the main roads. This is the condition the Christians have laid down for there to be tranquility, but it seems that there is opposition from the Druze.

[Answer] No objection exists to the Lebanese Army, but the Druze fear a new Kafr Matta through which elements of the Lebanese Forces would come up into the mountain. When sufficient guarantees are provided that this will not happen, then I am sure that no one will reject the army.

[Question] After all that has happened in the mountain, the younger generation has been imprinted with great hatred. Will it be easy for those who are the country's future to remove this hatred and resume life?

[Answer] Of course, hatred is present. Those who have filled minds with negative experiences can fill them with positive ones as well. Between 1984 and 1860, the Turks were the cause of the hatred which arose between the Maronites and the Druze. But the latter two groups transcended them with time and relations became normal once again.

[Question] This is what the moderates say. Are there not other voices?

[Answer] Certainly the voices of the moderates have disappeared under the pressure of the rockets, which are like shouting Bedouin.

[Question] From what you say, it is clear that the Druze have lost their trust in the state. Is it possible to recover this trust?

[Answer] We must work to rebuild the trust of the Druze in the state. This can be done by taking a series of security and social measures, among which are the following:

1 dissolving the militias belonging to all the factions

2 allowing the entry of the army, on the condition that it will be accompanied by a comprehensive development plan aimed at rebuilding the infrastructure of the mountain in developmental and economic terms

3 creating a strong, capable state which commits itself to looking seriously and positively at the demands of the Druze sect.

[Question] Are there non-Druze forces in the mountain?

[Answer] There are Palestinians, most of whom have entered the southern suburb of Beirut. For some time now the Palestinians have no longer been concentrated in the mountain. Rather, they have begun to leave the mountain for the suburb.

[Question] The citizens say that you are not unanimously acknowledged as the leader of the Arsalan family, because Admiral Khawla and your brother, Amir Talal, adopt political positions which usually differ from your own and maintain complete independence from you, contrary to the promises they made during your acclamation. How do you comment on that?

[Answer] Talal is my brother. I am close to him, and I understand that he is 18 years old. As they say in the dialect, "He's feeling his oats." Madame Khawla is the wife of my father, Amir Majid. I have complete respect and admiration for her. However, the Shaykhs of al-Bayadah, its prominent men and the main supporters of the Arsalan policy acclaimed me leader and put the robe on me with the agreement of the entire family, thereby fulfilling the will of Amir Majid Arsalan, who honored me and gave me the task of assisting him in the administration of his affairs and the political and individual affairs of his followers. I am faithful to this. I want to remind you, and not merely to confirm, that I am the spokesman and sole leader of the Arsalan following.

[Question] The Christians of the 'Aliyah region, all of whom are backers and supporters of Arsalan leadership in the region, charge that the members of the Arsalan family did not try to stand in the way of the disasters which have descended on the inhabitants and driven them from their homes. They say that this position is recorded is marked against the Arsalans. What is your response?

[Answer] The Druze have been brought together by disaster, after a siege was imposed on them for a year and three months. I was the only one travelled the international highway from 'Aliyah to Beirut. However, those in my retinue were exposed to kidnapping. Some paid with their lives because they believed that they had nothing to fear, since they were peaceful and open-minded and loved concord and peace. However, it is not important for Faysal Arsalan to move about and go alone to the eastern region. The important thing is for each Lebanese to be able to go where he wants. This is especially true of my followers, who reflect my moderate, open-minded policy.

Things became more complex when the Kafr Matta massacre happened and Arsalanis with no ties to the events fell as victims. In addition to that, some groups have falsely accused me of things which have nothing to do with my morals and customs. These accusations are contained in the "'Ayn Tiraz" document. After all that, how is it that you do not want the Druze to unite?

[Question] Amir Faysal Arsalan concluded by responding to a question concerning his relationship to the leader of the Junblattis, Walid Junblatt.

[Answer] I am no one's enemy. I am at odds only with those who want to eliminate Lebanon. I have already said that I am ready to talk and cooperate with everyone in the interest of the country and in order to rescue it from its trial. However, I will do so only within the context of respecting the opinion of each faction, because the system in this country is democratic, despite everything. Everyone has his opinion, which must be protected.

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CSO: 4404/251

GOVERNMENT REQUESTS ARMS FROM FRG

Doha GULF TIMES in English 22, 23 Dec 83 p 3

[Article by K N Sharma]

[Text] QATAR has asked for arms from West Germany to beef up its defence forces, West German Minister of State at the Federal Foreign Office Jurgen Mollemann said yesterday.

Mollemann said he would submit the Qatari request to the Bonn government.

The request came during his meeting with Qatar's Emir, HH Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad al-Thani, and Qatar's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, HE Ahmed bin Saif al-Thani, at the Emiri Palace yesterday.

Mollemann who went to Abu Dhabi on way back home after a two-day official visit said he proposed West German cooperation in training Qatar's internal security forces to combat terrorism and the hijacking of aircraft. "Our proposals follows our sincere desire for stability and peace in the Gulf," he said.

The West German minister also expressed interest in Qatar's massive natural gas resources concentrated in its northern continental shelf and urged that German oil companies should be involved in its development.

A West German consortium — Wintershall — enjoys an exploration and production-sharing agreement with Qatar

over 32% of the rich North Field. But it has not been chosen as a partner in a new company being formed to develop the gas and export it in the shape of LNG (liquefied natural gas).

British Petroleum and Compagnie Francaise des Petroles (CFP-Total) have been offered 7.5% stake each in the \$6bn LNG venture.

Mollemann expressed a strong hope that the German company would be involved in the development of North Field.

One way would be for the constitution of the proposed LNG company to be amended to include two more partners — a Japanese firm for marketing, the Wintershall for drilling, exploration and production.

The German minister said his country's relations with Qatar were friendly and close but they could be strengthened in areas of mutual cooperation.

On Arab and other international issues Mollemann said his country fully backed the Palestinians' right to self-determination and wanted the withdrawal of Israelis from occupied Arab territories.

"Unfortunately there is a big split in the Arab World, harming their own cause. Arab states must come to unity and take Egypt back into the Arab

League. I am glad countries in the Cooperation Council for Arab States of the Gulf also support this stand", he said.

On the Palestinian problem, Mollemann said King Hussein of Jordan could play a big role in opening direct talks with Israel on the withdrawal of Israelis from occupied Arab territories and the right of Palestinians to self-determination. But he needs full Arab, European and American support in his mission. "I hope the Arab Summit in March would realise this and endorse it".

Photo caption:

[Above: The Gepard, an anti-aircraft tank capable of firing 1,100 round a minute and below the anti-aircraft tank Roland designed to combat low flying aircraft. Both systems could be offered to Qatar's armed forces.]

CSO: 4400/143

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OUTLINES ECONOMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

Doha GULF TIMES in English 11 Dec 83 pp 6, 8, 9

[Text] *The general Secretariat of the Council of Ministers issued a statement outlining the achievements of Qatar during the Hajera year 1403 on the occasion of the inauguration of the 12th session of the Advisory Council.*

Industry

The statement said unaccomplishments in the industrial field included the production during the year of 2m tonnes of sponge iron, 2m tonnes of steel billets and 2m tonnes of steel bars by Qatar Steel Company (Qasco), which had taken it to the level of leading international companies.

Qatar's fertilisers company Qafco recorded the highest production since its establishment last year when it produced 528,000 tonnes of ammonia, and 662,300 tonnes of urea.

Qafco Ammonia production was 89% of its capacity and its urea production was a 100.4%, the statement said.

Of achievements by Qatar Petrochemical Company, the statement said company production during the first half of 1983 amounted to 62,481 metric tonnes of ethylene, compared to 50,792 tonnes during the same period of last year, and produced a total of 6,767 tonnes of sulphur during the first half of this year.

The productive capacity of Qatar natural liquified gas plants (NLG) during the first half of the current year reached 122,218 tonnes of propane, 85,036 tonnes of butane and 71,234 tonnes of gasoline, thus exceeding the production of the same period last year.

The statement noted that the NGL exports during the first six months of the year had totalled

274,457 tonnes, registering an increase of about 80,000 tonnes against the corresponding period last year.

Pointing to the productive capacity of Qatar Fertiliser Company (Qafco), the statement said it produced 7,986 tonnes of fertiliser and 796 tonnes of fertiliser extracted from scrap iron, figures which surpassed those of the same period the previous year.

Construction is underway to establish a new refinery to be located beside the current one with a full productive capacity amounting to 50,000BD to meet local requirements of gas and benzine in addition to fuel for planes and ships, the statement noted.

The new refinery will be fully operational before the end of the current year.

Studies were completed on the possibility of launching a number of joint industrial projects including the float glass, coke oil projects and production of fro-silicon and silicon and a further project for extraction of ethane.

Studies are underway for the extraction of argon gas, and research is under consideration for water desalination and the exploiting of solar energy in geological and mining.

Agriculture

In the agricultural field about 17 types of vegetables were being cultivated in government farms in Shahaniya and the North during the 1982/83 season on an area of 426 dunums. Production in those two farms reached about 342 tonnes.

Greenhouse plantation covered an area of 32,000 sq metres using modern methods of irrigation and

cooling systems with production of vegetables continuing all year round.

A statistical and overall economic survey of farms in addition to a topographical survey of arable lands has been undertaken to assess types of crops grown, number of farms, area, water usage, mechanisation, animal husbandary, breeding of cattle, sheep, poultry farming and fisheries.

Various other programmes have been devised to increase green pasture and to introduce new annual breeds that can thrive in local climatic conditions.

Education

Qatar paid a great attention to education. Development covered the whole educational process, as the number of students at the different schools reached 45,416 last year, marking an increase of 2,806 over the previous year. The number of girl students last year reached 21,950, constituting 4.83% of the registered students.

Number of employees of the Education Ministry reached 5,280 last year, scoring an increase of 648 over the previous year. Secondary schools and university graduates totalled 2,598, of whom 1,580 are Qataris.

Students at Qatar University and those studying abroad totalled 3,815, covering all specialisations. The number of students at evening schools reached 9,465, of whom 2,710 are girls.

Number of students at private schools, Arab and foreign, reached 11,431 receiving education at 24 schools, under the supervision of the Education Ministry.

The Education Ministry has re-

ceived 48 new school buildings according to the Ten Year Plan adopted three years ago, and 18 schools were built this year according to the new design for Qatari schools.

Modern programmes for teacher training in collaboration with Qatar's University Education Faculty are progressing, and the Education Ministry is providing two institutes dedicated to the handicapped.

Other programmes included updating the manufacture of educational aids, examinations systems, the opening of higher educational stages in villages, and developing the scholastic health programmes.

New educational experiments include the opening of kindergartens, an important transitional stage in school education.

On university education the statement said Qatari students at Qatar University totalled to 65% of the student population. According to the statement Qatar University has ten Qatar PhD holders, 25 with masters degrees, 32 male demonstrators and 101 female demonstrators.

Qatar University has five colleges, namely Humanities, Sharia, Education, Science and Engineering.

The University has issued many books, research papers and studies during the past year in addition to its participation in several international and domestic conferences and seminars.

The statement reviewed progress made in social affairs, highlighting assistance given to the needy, social training, rehabilitation training in handicrafts and juvenile orientation.

Infrastructure

The statement reviewed progress in the provision of metalled roads, health centres, housing complexes, airport building renovation, a new maternity hospital (under construction), government subsidised housing in West Bay, sports clubs, police and fire brigades building in various towns in addition to new ventures to be carried out, including 20 schools and other government buildings.

In the health field the statement said 19 health centres were now in all parts of the state, in addition to hospitals.

Communication

On telecommunications the statement said the number of telephone lines had been increased to 520,000, while telephone subscribers now numbered 82,000. More areas had been linked to telephone services. Other advances were in telex services and in international dialling circuit, with it possible to dial directly to 124 countries.

The statement reviewed progress made on modernising weather meteorology equipment and the opening of more stations and the introduction of modern radar systems.

The statement covered progress in modernising Qatar's ports, noting in this respect the start of operations at Umm Said commercial port.

Future plans at the ports included facilities for supplying ships with water and fuel, new berths, and repair docks.

On mail, the statement said work was currently under way to development Mumtaz mail services and the construction of the new post office in West Bay.

Energy development in respect of the generation of electricity and desalination of sea water had seen considerable progress with the establishment of four new steam-powered turbine units, two of which had become operational in Al Sailiyah and the other two scheduled to come on stream soon.

A new electricity and water desalination plant designed to have a total output of 1,500 megawatts and 100m gallons of water per day by the year 2000 will be set up in Al Waseil, with construction works being carried out at stages, the first of which comes on stream by the summer of 1986, with the plant turning out 40m gallons of water per day and generating 600 megawatts.

Expansion at Ras Abu Fontas desalination plant had been completed and peak consumption of 38.4m gallons of water per day during summer was scheduled to be met with the pumping of desalinated water through the main water-pipeline linking Doha and Ras Abu Fontas, which would become operational shortly.

With new water tanks, water pumping equipment and water

mains to Doha all completed supply of desalinated water through the major distribution network will be extended to houses to cover water consumption during summer.

Water storage capacity in Qatar had been expanded and preparations have been completed for a strategic reserve storage of 32m gallons of water per day by the beginning of Ramadan.

Water supply to points within Doha city has been completed and a main water pipeline linking Rashedah and Al Khor is nearing completion, while construction work on extending the water supply to Al Wakair have finished and pipe lines will be laid down within the first three months of the current year.

In regard to electricity, a number of new streets, in Doha had been lighted, the second, third and fourth roundabouts were equipped with light, and electricity supply was extended to low-income houses in the West Bay, Al Mansaseer, Al Khor, Al Dakhirah and Al Shimal.

Several electricity power extensions have also been installed in public institutions in Doha and Umm Said and electricity generators have been installed in rural and remote

areas. A number of public institutions have been equipped with emergency electricity generators.

Information

Technical development covered different fields of information. Two transmitters were installed for the broadcasting service with a total capacity of 100 kilowatt, medium wave and 675 kh to serve the General Programme.

Feasibility studies to renew the second building of the broadcasting service and the Arish transmission station have been completed and were referred to the Public Works Ministry.

Installations and technical fittings for on-the-spot live coverage and transmission by TV vans were carried out while equipment for spontaneous translation were installed and used effectively during the CCASG summit.

A short wave transmission station is being built at Al Shamal and construction works are under way to complete a broadcasting service transmission centre to cover all countries of the world.

A TV relay station, cinema control building and an annex to the new

building to provide services to all TV production departments, were also being considered.

The Department of Press and Publications at the Information Ministry issued books, bulletins, photographs and maps in Arabic, English and French to reflect the various aspects of development in Qatar.

The Department also carried out a programmed information campaign for the whole year and issued publications on the occasion of the CCASG summit in Doha.

The Qatar News Agency has also covered several local, regional and international conferences and started transmission through its English language wire service to five countries. The agency will shortly complete its network to cover part of Europe, Latin America, Japan and Australia.

Culture

The Information Ministry's Culture and Arts Department has prepared the Doha cultural centre to be a gathering for literary figures and poets and opened a cultural centre at Al Khor town, hosted a number of Arab cultural weeks and organised cultural and artistic contests.

The Department conducted studies for the establishment of a centre for trades and handicrafts in collaboration with Unesco, and has also taken part in Arab and foreign popular arts festivals.

The department also assisted in staging several arts exhibitions by Qatari artists and staged exhibitions of Qatari artists in European countries to art.

The Department of Tourism and Antiquities organised the traditional boat race and rowing contest, and issued Qatar's tourism directory in Arabic, English and French.

In the field of tourism the department has undertaken the maintenance of historical buildings of Al Khor, Al Dhakira and Al Wakrah and is undertaking continuous development of Qatar's national museum and the Folk Arts museum which will open next year. Work is currently underway on the museums of Al Khor and Al Wakrah.

The municipality development plans for recreational services and urban development have progressed steadily with completion of landscaping of Doha and other towns, and building of new markets.

Construction of the Doha International Airport public park is nearing completion, and at Murtaza public park plants, flower and a restaurant will be opened to public soon.

Construction of warehouses in the Doha wholesale market along Salwa Road were completed and the establishment of a new bus service station which is to have waiting lounge, offices, restrooms and greeneries is underway, while 42 shaded bus-stops have been set up inside Doha city.

New markets will open in Salwa housing area and Faraj bin Omran, while a third is planned for Al Najah soon.

A new automatic slaughter house was set up in Al Shimal while landscaping projects have been carried out in Al Wakrah and West Bay.

Works are underway for improving and expanding public Parks in Al Wakrah, Al Shimal, Al Khor cornice and construction of a children's playground.

Other project plans include landscaping and planting of Doha city zones, the setting up of more public parks, building of public shopping markets in Umm Salal, Al Khor, Al

Shimal, Al Wakrah and the beautification of city entrances.

Future projects also include setting up of shaded bus stops in Doha and other towns, and the establishment of popular tea shops.

Production capacity of the Al Najah organic fertilizer plant will be raised from 150 tonnes per day to 300 tonnes per day with the expansion works scheduled for completion in May 1984.

The garbage crusher compressing plant was brought into service last September and has a capacity of crushing 20 tonnes of garbage per hour.

Courts

In the field of Sharia courts and religious affairs the government accomplished great achievement, topped by the building of mosques and provided them with furniture and essential requirements to administer them.

A plan had also been drawn up to establish new model mosques with an architectural design that incorporates both Islamic and modern designs.

Within this plan a number of mosques had been built including

Abu Baker al-Siddiq mosque at the eastern part of Doha, the Central Market's mosque, at Salwa Road, Omar Ibn al-Khattab mosque at Khalifa town, Doha airport mosque and Al Eid (the Bairam) prayer court at Jasrah.

Other model mosques to be built shortly are Salahuddin mosque, Osman Ibn Affan mosque at Umm Said, and Khalifa sports stadium mosque.

The headquarters of the Sharia Courts and Religious Affairs had extended assistance to several charity associations and centres in various Islamic and foreign countries. The sum offered in 1403 HD totalled QR3,645,000.

The Ministry printed and published copies of the Holy Qu'ran in varying languages for distribution to Moslems inside Qatar and in other Moslem states.

The Islamic Affairs Department also annually organises an Islamic cultural season

Al Ummah magazine, which is published by the headquarters of the Sharia Courts and Religious Affairs, distributes monthly about 90,000 issues.

OIL, GAS PROJECTS TO GIVE ECONOMY LIFT IN 1984

Doha GULF TIMES in English 15, 16 Dec 83 p 5

[Article by K N Sharma]

[Text] QATAR's economy will receive a major boost early next year when work starts on development of the state's huge North Field gas reserves and the Al-Wusail power and desalination project.

A further shot in the arm will be provided by the signing of an agreement between the Qatar General Petroleum Corporation and a British Petroleum and Compagnie Francaise des Petroles (CFP-Total) consortium to develop a \$6bn liquefied natural gas (LNG) project.

Negotiations are now in the final stages and the agreement is expected to be signed within the next two months.

Both the Al-Wusail scheme and the LNG project are designed to utilise gas produced by the \$500m North Field development, which will also meet all Qatar's domestic requirement for natural gas.

The project designed to produce 500m cubic feet a day of gas involves construction of several production platforms, drilling and processing facilities and pipelines both onshore and offshore.

The Al-Wusail power and desalination project is designed to produce 100m gallons of water a day and generate 1,500 megawatt of electricity by the year 2000. The cost is estimated to be QR3bn.

The first phase of the project, expected to be completed by mid-1986, has been designed to produce 46m gallons of water and 600 megawatts of electricity.

This is likely to create business opportunities for construction companies, pipelaying and cable laying establishments.

Other major projects pending include a 48-km multi-products pipeline between Doha and Umm Said, a refined oil products export terminal at Umm Said and installation of submarine and onshore pipelines from QGPC offshore's fields to Umm Said.

Though the government has instructed various departments to plan for a 15% budget reduction next year, several small to medium size projects are to be executed in 1984-85.

These include an extension to the water distribution network to all houses in Doha next summer, a Doha Cultural Centre and new markets at Salwa and Al Naijah.

Other projects include landscaping and planting in Doha,

the setting up of more public parks, building of public shopping centres in Umm Salal, Al Khor, Al Shimal, Al Wakrah and the beautification of city entrances.

There are also projects in the new year for new bus stops in Doha and other towns and the launching of popular tea shops.

The production capacity of Al Naijah organic fertiliser plant is to be doubled to 300 tonnes a day from 150 tonnes.

The next year's budget also includes construction of the Salahuddin mosque in Doha, Osman Ibn Affan mosque at Umm Said and Khalifa sports stadium mosque in Doha.

GOVERNMENT DISMISSES REDUNDANT STAFF

Doha GULF TIMES in English 14 Nov 83 p 1

[Text] Government departments in Qatar have started dismissing redundant staff under an economy-cum-rationalisation move.

About 3,000 expatriates of all nationalities are likely to be affected by the move. They range from labourers and petty secretarial staff to senior officers in various ministries and departments.

The largest number of jobs to be axed is likely to be in the Ministry of Electricity and Water and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs.

Work in the former Ministry has been largely automated with the introduction of computers and other electronic devices.

In determining redundancies, the government has taken full account of automation, efficiency and duplication of responsibilities.

A list of jobs to be axed, and employees deemed superfluous was compiled by various ministries under broad guidelines prepared by the Civil Affairs Department of the Ministry of Finance and Petroleum, which pays salaries and allowances of all government employees.

The CAD has now finalised the list of redundant staff and ministries have been asked to give those employees notice.

Generous compensation ranging from three months' to 18 months' pay depending on years of service is being offered to each employee.

The retrenchment move is "more of a rationalisation measure to improve efficiency than to effect economies" said one head of a government department. "It is also to cut overstaffing and duplication and overlapping of responsibilities in different ministries," he added.

CSO: 4400/143

POLITICAL, SOCIAL EFFECTS OF FOREIGN WORKERS PROBED

Al-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 1 Dec 83 p 3

[Article by Ahmad 'Ali al-Haddad: "The Foreign Workers and Their Effects on the Situation in the United Arab Emirates; The Negative Effects Include Various Political and Social Aspects"]

[Text] The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has witnessed in the aftermath of the discovery of oil the arrival of huge numbers of foreign workers. They came to execute the various projects which the state and the private sector began to put forward, in order to satisfy the needs of the new society.

The foreign laborers come from various nationalities, most of them Asian. These workers have come to pose a threat, since their numbers have grown so quickly that they now make up 80 percent of all workers in the UAE.

Therefore, all the agencies of the state have begun looking for solutions to the problems of these workers. This search induced the Federal National Council to hold a secret session to discuss all the dimensions and aspects of the problem. Indeed, things have gone so far that the cabinet has devoted some of its sessions to the discussion of this problem.

The rapid changes which the country has witnessed have not been characterized by quantitative or qualitative balance. There have been many negative social, religious and political effects and results, thanks to the presence of the foreign workers.

The Religious Aspects

The UAE is a part of the Arab Nation whose history witnessed the rise of Islam. It has taken Islamic positions since the start of Islam. During the past centuries, the entire Arabian Peninsula has experienced only one religion: the Islamic religion. However, as soon as the earth vented forth its natural riches, the region became the goal of consecutive invasions by foreigners who brought various religions to it. Each group of them began to practice its own religious rites, without taking into consideration that this land is Arab and Muslim and has its own traditions and rites which have been passed down through the centuries.

The presence of non-Muslim workers such as Indians, Koreans, Taiwanese and Europeans in the region definitely encourages the practice of ancient Chinese, Buddhist and Western Christian rites and customs which are completely unrelated to our land of the East. It also encourages the dissemination of thoughts which pose a threat to our religious way of thinking, which affirms the unity of God.

The matter is not limited merely to the introduction of other religions and the practice of some rites. Rather, it goes beyond that to include the construction of churches and temples. It is to be feared that if things go on this way as a result of the pressure of the foreign workers, the Islamic identity of this land will disappear, after its Arab identity has almost disappeared.

Let us add to that another dimension: that of the missionary activities which have begun to be practiced on a wide scale indeed. This began in al-Basrah, where the missionary societies began by setting up their first major center. For a long time, it was their base of operations in the Gulf region. From al-Basrah, the activity of the missionaries spread to the various areas of the Gulf one by one. They focused on the strategic region, opening a major center in Bahrain in 1892, in Muscat in 1893, and in Kuwait in 1910. They also opened secondary centers. These missions focused on using medical and educational services as tools of religious proselytization.

The Political Aspect

While spreading their poisons, the foreign workers give all their interest to the political dimension, because the climate becomes suitable for their control if this aspect is shadowed. It is well known that foreign colonies are loyal to their mother countries, whatever the nature of the political regimes there. They can be a fifth column for purposes of propaganda, sabotage and spying. They can also be used for any military action taking place in the region of the Arab Gulf.

There can be no doubt that these foreigners are working to spread the political inclinations in which they believe. Thus, they are trying to spread their ideas in the region in an effort to weaken the pan-Arab bonds among the population, which in and of themselves threaten their presence and interests and put their existence as colonies into question.

These indicators have become clear and arresting. Thus, Kuwait witnessed a strike by Indian and Pakistani workers in the port of al-Shuwaykh which was carried out in a manner which was unreasonable both locally and internationally. This a new phenomenon which the societies of the Gulf region have been witnessing. In addition, the style of execution amounted to threatening and coercing the government to give in to the workers' demand without a legal basis.

The question which has to be discussed is whether the Indians, Pakistanis and other groups present in strength are organized into unannounced, pseudo-unions or not?

Dr Makki has announced that the strike demonstrated that they are well organized, and that their hidden leaders are able to mobilize them and issue instruction to them gradually.

Moreover, a new imperialist invasion, differing in form and color from its predecessors, is threatening the entire region, after it has been drowned in groups of foreigners who use contracting operations to cover up their military presence.

As a result of the new imperialist policy, the number of South Koreans working under cover of construction companies has reached 100,000 military workers. Two-thirds of them are located in Saudi Arabia, with the remainder being distributed among the UAE, Kuwait and Bahrain. They have chosen to work in the ports and airports, which are close to the important oil wells.

It has been noted that these soldier-workers have a regular military character. The ages of most of them vary between 18 and 25, just as during their actual compulsory service.

Moreover, they get up early in the morning and stand in regular columns. They exchange military greetings at the changing of the guard. They only go to the markets and tourist attractions in organized groups, with everyone wearing the same clothes.

It has also been noted that they reside in prefabricated houses similar to military barracks. These houses contain all they need in the way of food, clothes, means of transportation, working equipment and all other necessities. They import these things directly from their country.

We have a frightening mixture of humanity. The Arabs in the midst of it all are a small minority without power or influence. So that the Babel of the Gulf will be complete, huge concentrations of workers are being brought from the Far East. These people know more about military affairs than they do about construction and building.

Moreover, we must take into account the fact that serious problems could occur, were the foreign experts to be withdrawn suddenly. This would mean a breakdown of economic life in the country.

Therefore, the foreign migration is a real danger which is growing as time passes. It is possible for this to lead to the creation of worse problems, if concepts of the right of self-determination via popular plebiscites arise. The dominant role in such plebiscites is always played by the majority of the population.

The Economic Aspect

If we review the results of the 1980 census, a frightening fact will become clear to us: the foreign laborers control most manual jobs and commercial activities, especially in the area of the simple trades. This situation in turn places the economy of the state in the hands of foreigners.

Unfortunately, small institutions are exempted from compliance under the labor law. All the regulations, including the one on paying financial security for sending the workers back, which was issued by decree of the cabinet recently, have remained unenforced with regard to this foreign group.

These workers are trying to get a hold on the economy of the country. The small activities are in the hands of the foreign workers, and the administration of the large institutions is controlled by foreign workers who are trying to attract more of the same kind. Where is the caravan headed? It is headed in the direction of employing all its capacities for the extraction of wealth. The best example of that is offered by the statistics according to which the Pakistani workers in the Gulf countries sent 1.11 billion to their country last year.

The Thai workers who emigrate to the Gulf countries have become a major source of financing for their country. The employment agencies which recruit these workers say that 100,000 of them sent \$500 million a year to Thailand.

This drain on the country's wealth is causing an absence of liquidity and the freezing of commercial projects. Furthermore, an immigration-stimulated population increase of 75 percent, such as occurred in the UAE, truly does bring about a similar increase in the demand for foodstuffs and other consumer goods. This requires much importing, which in turn calls for a great deal of liquidity.

The growth of immigration does not merely decrease the ratio of savings to investment needed to assure increasing incomes. Rather, it makes saving itself difficult. In addition, it causes savings to be exported. Then too migration pushes investment in the UAE in the direction of relatively capital-intensive projects. I refer specifically to projects in the areas of education and housing. This in turn places heavy pressure on the construction industry, or on the importation of these materials from abroad.

In its current form, immigration leads to the occurrence of disguised unemployment and the use of intensive labor as a substitute for capital intensive operations. Moreover, the wages and salaries which are exported represent large transfers from the Gross Domestic Product.

If we turn to the UAE's balance of payments, we find that it achieved a trade surplus of 21,406,500,000 dirhams in 1977. However, the balance of payments lowered this surplus to 4,426,600,000 dirhams in the same year. The balance of payments surplus began to dwindle as a result of the transfer payments made by the emigres and the oil companies, as well as transfers made by the private sector.

Local and Cultural Aspect

Immigration is a self-perpetuating process. It begins slowly and then grows rapidly when the emigre brings over his family and relatives. In this way,

an inability to absorb the foreign worker occurs, bringing negative effects to society's classes.

Society in the UAE has begun to witness strange customs and traditions. These customs do not agree with its Arab-Islamic character. Thus, we are witnessing holidays unknown to us before. The clubs and hotels have begun to compete in this area, in terms of offering alcohol and gambling. Indeed, every day we hear of houses being used for debauchery and gambling.

The negative foreign customs have become a business from which some people profit. The construction of a society has begun which is polluted in many ways. Some of these sources of pollution are rape, alcohol, drugs, theft and the burning of corpses instead of the proper respect for the dead which the true Islamic religion prescribes.

The Arabic language has been no luckier than the other facets of society. The distortion of the Arabic language has become a natural phenomenon. It occurs via intercourse between foreigners and Arabs, who are forced to use words completely unrelated to Arabic. Moreover, the language of children is distorted and they become schooled in erroneous modes of behavior and customs by their foreign nurses. Moreover, the foreign cultures set an example which is different and far removed from Arabism, Islam and their concepts.

Our language is that of the noble Qur'an. "Verily, this is a revelation from the Lord of the Worlds to thy heart and mind, that thou mayest admonish in the perspicuous Arabic tongue." Surah XXVI, Verses 192-195. In the midst of the stream of foreign dialects and languages which have begun to impose themselves, this language is threatened with destruction.

Loss of Security

The danger to the general security is opened up by the possibilities afforded by the presence of large numbers of foreign emigres to the states which export them. Such countries could interfere in the host country under the pretext of protecting these colonies. History tells of countries like Palestine and Lebanon which have been colonized for the purpose of protecting minorities. What could happen in the UAE, where the foreigners make up the majority?

As for personal security, it is threatened by the increasing rates and variety of crime, as well as by the occurrence of new crimes previously unknown to the society of the UAE. The number of reported crimes rose from 8,791 in 1974 to 18,434 in 1981. This great increase is the result of the steady increase in the number of foreign workers.

Arab Workers Are the Best Alternative

The state must turn to Arab workers if it is to achieve a comprehensive solution to the problem of the Asian advance. Before we deal with that subject, we must respond to certain questions which are being raised. Some

claim that Arab workers are costly and demand high wages, though they possess little experience. Thus, they are called pampered workers. In response to this, it can be said that those who spread this falsehood are the foreigners themselves. It is an attempt by them to poison the atmosphere vis-a-vis the Arab workers and close the door to them.

The question is, are not these the same workers who lead the production process in their countries and engage in feats of industrial and agricultural construction which the Asian countries currently exporting labor have been unable to match? Are not these Arab workers pioneers in fields of industrialization which the countries of those who spread lies cannot handle? Have not the Arab workers been builders of civilization for millenia?

The call to reject Arab workers has other dimensions. Arab workers are not only a force of production. Rather, they are the armor of the UAE. Being both Arab and pan-Arab, they firmly fix the foundations of the Arab renaissance. Their presence blocks the path of those who deal in human beings and work in the interests of the imperialist nations. Thus, this call has been made out of fear for the interests of the foreign laborers and out of a feeling that the Arab workers threaten their presence.

Arab workers are better than and preferable to others because they are working inside their own great Arab homeland and within their nation. They are capable of reaching a mutual understanding and of engaging in give-and-take. Bringing them in will re-distribute Arab population density all over the Arab nation. The population density in the heavily populated Arab countries will be lessened, thereby creating a balance.

The claim that Arab labor is high-wage labor might be partly true, but experience has shown that Arab workers can get by at current wage levels. This is shown by the number of Arab workers already present. This is the best proof of their capacity and competence, for if it were not so, they would have been dispensed with and cheaper workers would have taken their place.

These wages in turn benefit the Arab Nation. In this way, Arab money will go to Arabs. Everyone can see that Arab workers are competent and devoted to their work, without looking for cheapness and quantity.

Why should not Arab money be used for the sake of the Arabs, especially while Arab countries exist which are only a short distance away from this region and are numbered among the poorest countries in the world? I refer to countries like Yemen, Somalia and the Sudan.

If Arab workers take the place of other immigrant labor, then mutual understanding and interaction will arise between the residents and the immigrants. This will contribute to strengthening the Arab presence in the eastern section of the nation. Moreover, it will fill the gap created by the flow of oil in the countries which lack dense populations. Furthermore, it will provide the Arabs of the region with a reasonable amount of psychological

security which will enable them to rectify their pan-Arab feeling and liberate it from every racist inclination.

Interaction between the immigrants and the residents will help to deepen pan-Arab feeling among a broad group of Arabs engaged in productive activity who belong to different regions. This in turn will help crystallize pan-Arab thinking and develop intense and broad ties and a deep dialogue by means of intellectual interaction with reality.

This call has been adopted by responsible persons in the Federal National Council, which has devoted sessions to the discussion of the topic of immigrant workers. Some opinions have been voiced which say it is necessary for Arab workers to take the place of the other nationalities. From the point of view of productivity, the Arabs are more competent, while from the point of view of nationality, they are more deserving than are the others.

The Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs has concluded several agreements with Arab countries with the aim of facilitating the attraction of Arab workers. Have these agreements borne fruit?

The companies and institutions, and even the government sector, are still averse to bringing in these Arab workers. Perhaps this is what led His Excellency Sayf 'Ali al-Jarwan, the minister of labor and social affairs, to call on all agencies and public and private institutions in the country to commit themselves to applying the agreements which have been concluded in this regard with several other Arab countries.

The situation calls for the drawing up of a sound, phased plan for replacing the foreign workers with Arabs in the sectors in which the former may be dispensed with gradually. Let us be plainer still. There are many positions which can be filled in accordance with the principle of divesting and replacing. I am speaking of divesting foreigners of the positions which can be filled by citizens and natives, and thus replacing the former with the latter. One of the facts which must be stressed is that the state really has issued laws and decrees in support of the Arab workers. However, the implementation of these laws is not yet complete. Federal law number one, issued in 1971, deals with the organization of industry. In article 33, it states that the citizens working on any industrial project may not account for less than 25 percent of the total work force. The minister, on the basis of a recommendation from the committee, may exempt a project from this provision or decrease the percentage referred to if a sufficient number of citizens is not available.

But here is where the danger lies, for opening the door to exceptions leads to the loss of the goal. It would have been better for the lawgivers to stick to the aforementioned percentage and limit exceptions to permitting the use of Arab workers instead of citizens if the necessary number of citizens were not available, so that the goal would be achieved. After all, the current situation merely indicates a tendency. It does not confirm the existence of a fact or commitment, because the exceptions can include all possibilities, including a refusal to hire citizens.

Perhaps one of the best and most useful examples is decree 23, which the minister of labor and social affairs issued on 30 January 1982. It says that a collective visa issued by the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs must include enough Arab workers to make up 30 percent of the total. It states as well that Arab workers may not be replaced with any other nationality. The decree went into effect on 1 February 1982.

One can only bless this decree, but we must still ask why it was limited to collective visas, without taking into account individual visas. The best thing would be for the decree to include all visas, thus preserving balance and a continuous ratio of Arab workers.

The situation calls for granting visitor visas to Arabs so that they will be able to enter the country and look for work opportunities, it being stipulated that they will be able to exchange their initial visas for work visas without leaving the country if job opportunities are available. Moreover, the provision of visas to companies and institutions which desire to bring in Arab labor must be facilitated.

It is possible to apply the system in use with regard to the entry of British citizens, who are given the right to enter and stay for a month, to Arab workers, it being stipulated that these exceptional facilitations would be for a limited period, so that the percentage of Arab workers would have a chance to rise. After that, we could return to the current system with respect to all immigrants.

Replacing the foreign workers with Arabs will assure us Arabism and pan-Arabism, which are the armor protecting us. The state has the direst need for the arms and minds of the sons of the Arab Nation. The factors behind the danger can only be removed by the use of Arab workers. In this way, we will block the path of those who seek to weaken the Arab element and the ties which bind the people of the Gulf with the people of the Arab Nation.

In this way, it becomes clear to us that the determination of the future of the UAE depends fundamentally on the people of the country, not on strangers, be they from the foreign groups or the Arab groups, though the Arabs are to be preferred to the foreigners. By offering solutions whereby the foreign workers can be replaced by Arabs, the author of this study is proposing a phased plan to allow the country's own citizens to serve the state, especially in the federal institutions and purely local governmental institutions, such as the army, the Ministry of the Interior, and all the other state ministries.

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CSO: 4404/236

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

AGRICULTURAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 1983 OUTLINED

Al-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 2 Dec 83 p 9

[Article: "Agricultural Expansion in 1983 Extends Vertically and Horizontally. Accomplishments Concentrated on Farmers Through Apportionments"]

[Text] In a report put out on the occasion of National Day about agricultural accomplishments for 1983, the ministry of agriculture and fish resources highlighted the main features of these accomplishments, as follows:

--Development of applied scientific research in an effort to solve the real problems facing farmers, in particular, and agricultural growth nationwide, in general.

--Great concern for farmer training and education in the field of teaching farms in light of the results of past experiments.

--Control of services to farmers whereby farmers have become self-reliant in many agricultural operations after acquiring a good grasp of most agricultural subjects, especially plowing and combatting blight and epidemics.

--Concentration on the completion of projects in the ministry's plan, such as the agricultural and veterinary instruction centers in Kadrah, Kalba, 'Ajman, Ra's al-Khaymah, the naval workshop on Dalma Island, Dubayy, al-Jazirah al-Hamra', Sudud, al-Ray Ham and al-Bih; the central laboratory and the fish breeding project in Umm al-Qaywayn.

The report also dealt with the gross local production, development of arable land, crop composition, teaching farms, application of modern irrigation methods, expansion of greenhouse farming, distribution of loans and production needs, nurseries and research centers, agricultural and veterinary quarantine, fishery loans and loans for fishermen, and completion of the ministry's complementary projects.

Gross Local Production

Gross local production of the agricultural and fish resources sector for the current year was about 1.412 million dirhams, compared to 1.067 million dirhams for last year, a 34 percent growth rate. Total production figures rose from 444,000 to 623,000 tons, a 40 percent growth. The details are as follows:

Development of Arable Land and Crops

Agricultural holdings of arable land reached 26,776 hectares for the current year distributed over 12,584 farms nationwide. This represents an increase of 423 hectares over last year, as compared to 19 [rest of number obliterated] farms in 1978. Land actually cultivated was 22,191 hectares, 8,513 of which were used for date palms and other fruit trees and 10,025 for vegetable farming. Arable land cultivated for other crops such as green fodder [animal feed] and tobacco was 3,653 hectares. Special modern cattle farms grew fodder for their own use and sent the surplus to local markets.

Crop Composition and Teaching Farms

There were 161 fields, 71 of which grew summer crops such as cantaloupes and watermelon and 90 grew winter crops such as potatoes, beans and garlic, as opposed to 137 fields last year. The number of farmers applying the crop rotation method rose to 51, compared to 34 for last year, in an attempt to adopt the policy of crop rotation and distribution to serve farmer interests, local consumption demands and conservation of national resources.

Application of Modern Irrigation Methods

Modern irrigations methods have been introduced to 400 farms and irrigation systems have been completed in a 200-hectare area as part of an integrated project under implementation aimed at apportioning water services on the farm and conserving water resources.

Expansion in Greenhouses

The number of houses built rose to 1,071 ordinary houses from 410 houses last year, in addition to another 140-dunum area prepared for air-conditioned greenhouses. Greenhouse production will increase after the completion of the production farms project in al-'Uwayr and Umm Ghafah. Furthermore, the ministry is building new greenhouses in al-Daqaqah, al-Dhayd, and al-Fujayrah and is providing all possible facilities to farmers wishing to apply this method.

Nurseries and Loans

With regard to nurseries, the al-Zayd nursery has been expanded and turned into a central nursery for virus-free fruit trees, in addition to decorative plants [i.e., ornamentals] and other trees. The ministry's five other nurseries have also been expanded. Last year they distributed about 2.8 million vegetable, fruit, decorative and other seedlings and began distributing various seedlings to farmers at nominal prices in October of this year.

The ministry has received all production equipment and machinery contracted for under the 1982 budget and also the 1983 loans in the amount of 80 million dirhams already distributed this year.

<u>Production</u>	<u>Quantity (1,000 tons)</u>	<u>Value (million dirh.)</u>
Dates & Fruits	64.2	171
Vegetables	24.2	362
Other crops	199.2	263
Total vegetable production	512.7	796
Red Meat	6.8	125
Milk & Milk products	25.1	54
Poultry meat	3.5	42
Eggs (102 million)	5.1	43
Other animals products		13
Large fish/deep sea fishing	41.3	291
Small fish	28.8	68
Total fish production	70.1	359
Grand Total	623.3	1,432

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CSO: 4404/242

ABU DHABI EXPERIENCES GROWING PAINS

Al-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 14 Dec 83 p 9

[Article by Husayn al-Samadi]

[Text] Abu Dhabi, the capital, is suffering from a stifling traffic problem nowadays. The causes, as seen and felt by the people, are the construction and expansion sites in the various streets. Sometimes one needs more than 15 minutes to go 10 meters by car. But the projects are finished; the other task is on the way at a cost of billions.

The crisis will be over by end of the next year. That is, according to officials who point out that the system of bridges, tunnels and other road expansions, to get underway at the beginning of 1984 when contracts are awarded, will solve the stifling traffic problems to which Abu Dhabi has grown accustomed. Officials emphasize that the sewage overflow problem and water puddles in the streets will also be solved with the completion of the expanded sewage system in the city. Hence, Abu Dhabi is undergoing a complete "overhaul" in an attempt to solve the traffic problem for good. Therefore, people must exercise patience, as officials say.

Traffic Control

Abu Dhabi Deputy Mayor, Ahmad Khalaf al-Mazru'i, said the most important projects to be completed next year are those that will solve the traffic problem on Abu Dhabi Island and nearby cities (Baniyas, al-Wathbah and Jurn Yafur) by controlling and widening internal roads, eliminating circles, building bridges and tunnels, and putting utility lines such as sewage and electricity on the right track.

New Projects

He also said that the municipality has allocated in its 1984 budget several billion dirhams to carry out and complete its city planning program which began in 1980. It has allocated 1,300 million dirhams for the Abu Sa'diyat bridge; 750 million dirhams for the overpass that will link the present port to the east road going above al-Salam Street; 520 million dirhams for the Abu Dhabi al-Haydariyat bridge; 200 million dirhams for the bridge in front of the defense hospital; 90 million dirhams for a bridge next to the old al-Maqta' bridge; and 160 million dirhams for a bridge over the corniche. Bids for these projects are expected to be invited at the beginning of the new year to start work as soon as contracts are awarded.

Road Expansion

Al-Mazru'i added that there are several projects for bridges and intersections in the city under construction expected to be completed by the end of next year. They are the 'Ayn causeway intersection which is 55 percent complete at a cost of 175 million dirhams; the new airport intersection at a cost of 236 million dirhams; the widening of the airport road, which is 80 percent complete, at a cost of 75 million dirhams; the widening of Hazza' Bin Zayid Street at a cost of 145 million dirhams; the airport road intersection and widening of Sa'id Bin Thanun Street at a cost 110 million dirhams; widening of Hamdan and Khalifah road and the great mosque tunnel at a cost of 205 million dirhams; widening Zayid al-Awwal and Zayid al-Thani Streets at a cost of 130 million dirhams; the service road at a cost of 105 million; and widening of streets leading to the corniche at a cost of 132 million dirhams.

He pointed out that the defense bridge has been completed at a cost of 40 million dirhams and also the al-Madinah [city] bridge at a cost of 80 million dirhams. Furthermore, the al-Mashraf, al-Ashghal [i.e., Works] and al-Mustashfa [hopsital] circles in the old airport street have been replaced by traffic lights and the street has been widened. Traffic in that area has been flowing smoothly ever since.

Crisis and Solutions

Eng Tawfiq Lashin of the municipality traffic engineering section explained that when the traffic problem in the city began in early 1978 due to the construction boom and to more cars on the streets, Gen Shaykh Khalifah Bin Zayid, deputy commander-in-chief and chairman of the executive council, issued instructions to conduct a study on how to solve the traffic problem in the capital. The mayor and his officials formed a committee to study proposed solutions. The committee contacted embassies of countries advanced in the field of traffic control to consult with their consulting firms. A municipal technical committee visited several countries, including the U.S., and some European states, and following many discussions, American consultant, (Delieu) Cather, was chosen to submit practical proposals to solve the problem. He presented various plans for all solutions and it was finally decided to solve the problem by eliminating circles in the capital; installing traffic lights at intersections; widening all streets to three lanes in both directions, in addition to other improvements and more parking areas; building bridges and tunnels at some intersections, especially outside the city to avoid traffic jams; constructing the eastern beltway outside the city to absorb truck traffic going in and out of the city via the port area and ban trucks inside the city; and linking Abu Dhabi Island to other surrounding islands, al-Sha'diyat Island and al-Haydariyat Island in particular.

Crisis Ends Next Year

He goes on to say that following the submission of plans for these solutions and the approval of competent authorities, the municipality began inviting bids for the projects. Work got underway to widen most streets and build

tunnels and bridges. The defense and sports city bridges have been completed and widening of most city streets, the main ones in particular, is expected to be completed by early 1985, thus ending the traffic problem for good, as planned by the various agencies involved in services such as traffic, transportation, electric power, sewage and others.

Complete Sewage System

Sewage department director Eng 'Ali Abu Zayd talked about the problem of sewage overflow and water puddles during the rainy season. He said that the department drew up a completed program to get rid of this problem. It has built a system of sewers for most of the capital's quarters and set up major sewer stations and lines to carry the water of the major sewers beyond Abu Dhabi Island where a sewage treatment station has been built in al-Mafraq, opposite Bani Yas. This station is carrying out the project of recycling waste water for irrigation.

He also said that the department drew up another complete program for subsidiary residential lines city-wide to be implemented in stages according to importance. This project is to be completed in 1986 when sewage overflow in some districts not connected to main sewage systems will disappear. Areas so far connected to main sewage systems are: east 20 and 23; and west 24/1, 24/2 and 24/3. Sewage overflow in these districts has totally and finally disappeared.

Eng Abu Zayd added that the department is in the process of connecting the districts of Musalli al-'Id, al-Mushrif and al-Hadarim to the main sewage system. When this is done, it will start work on connecting the traffic, police college, and al-Battin districts to the main system.

Rain Water Drainage

Concerning rain water drainage, the sewage department director said: "It has been decided to build a separate system for draining rain water. Plans for this system have been drawn up to add to the project of widening Abu Dhabi streets, eliminating circles and erecting bridges and tunnels. Work has already begun on it and, when finished, it will draw water to the gulf through 12 sluices connected to the various streets in the capital. Thus, Abu Dhabi Island and its city will undergo tremendous expansion. The only witness nowadays is that stifling traffic problem exasperating the people. But officials are facing it with convincing satisfaction, considering the fact that next year is the year of a happy ending. In any case, they are optimistic.

12502

CSO: 4404/242

BRIEFS

RA'S AL-KHAYMAH STUDENT INCREASE--The number of male and female students in the elementary level in the Ra's al-Khaymah school district has increased by 970, with the total number reaching 11,388. The students make up 426 classes, meaning that an increase of 40 classes has occurred in comparison with last year. The number of male and female students in the preparatory level has increased by 312. The total has reached 3,379. The students make up 139 classes, meaning that an increase of nine classes has occurred in comparison with the last academic year. Moreover, the number of male and female secondary students has reached 1,551, meaning that an increase of 329 has occurred in comparison with last year. The students make up 62 classes, meaning that an increase of 11 classes has occurred. The above information is contained in a statistical report prepared by the Ra's al-Khaymah district on the growth which has occurred in the number of students, schools and classes during the current academic year. The report stated that the number of children in nurseries rose by 240. Thus, the total number has reached 1,853 this year. They are divided into 63 classes, meaning that an increase of 11 classes has occurred as compared with the previous academic year. Thus, the total number of male and female students at all levels during this academic year has been 18,171. This means that an increase of 1,697 has occurred in a single year. Moreover, four new school buildings have been built, meaning that the total number of boys and girls schools has reached 51. Moreover, the total number of classes is 690, meaning that an increase of 124 has occurred in comparison with the previous academic year. [Text] [Al-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 6 Dec 83 p 2] 12224

THAMAMAH-C GAS PRODUCTION--The national petroleum company of Abu Dhabi, ADNOC, will begin to produce gas from the Thamamah-C refinery in the Habshan region at the beginning of next April, now that the basic stages in the development of the installation have been largely completed. Ninety-nine percent of the engineering work is complete, and 73 percent of all activities connected with the construction of this huge project have been finished. ADNOC expects to be able to complete the construction work on the project at the end of this year. Thus, it will be able to begin the process of preparing to initiate operations at the project at the beginning of next year, in addition to the process of actually operating it. The project's costs total \$379 million. This does not include the cost of digging the gas wells. The aim of the project is to provide the amount of gas required to meet the needs of the water and electricity department of Abu Dhabi and the industrial region of al-Ruways. In addition, the gas

produced at Thamamah-C will be used to supplement the gas currently produced at the gas extraction facilities belonging to the GASCO company, thereby meeting Abu Dhabi's real need for gas. It is worth mentioning that the Thamamah-C facility was designed to process 450 million cubic feet of raw gas daily, thereby producing 375 million cubic feet of processed gas a day. In addition, it will produce 4,500 barrels of liquid natural gas and 26,000 barrels of petroleum distillates daily, as well as 800 tons of solid sulfur. [Text] [Al-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 22 Nov 83 p 7] 12224

OCTOBER CENTRAL BANK ASSETS--In a recently issued statement, the Central Bank announced that the value of its assets on 31 October 1983 was 11.82 billion dirhams. This figure was matched perfectly by liabilities on the same date. The statement said that the value of the bank's gold assets at the end of October was 677.5 million dirhams, while the value of its liabilities in gold was 3.05 billion dirhams. [Text] [Al-Ahariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 6 Dec 83 p 6] 12224

CSO: 4404/236

SOVIET PACIFICATION EFFORTS EXAMINED

Islamabad THE MUSLIM Magazine in English 6 Jan 84 p 3

[Article by Oliver Roy in LE MONDE: "Soviets in Danger of Overextending Themselves"]

[Text] Two British journalists and myself arranged to cover an "attack" on a government post by Afghan resistance fighters. Their commander suggested we choose the time of day that would be best for taking photos. After two hours of rather uncoordinated shooting, the mujahideen quietly withdrew without sustaining casualties. A month later, quite some distance from where the "attack" had been mounted, I talked to a man in civilian clothes who was attending a meeting of mujahideen. He questioned me about the operation: "How did you like it? Did the photos come out all right? What did you think of commander X? A great guy, no?" I asked him if he belonged to the resistance unit in question. "I wouldn't exactly put it like that...I'm the second-in-command of the army post that was attacked. I'm on leave with my family at the moment, but have to go back tomorrow." What about the "attack", when? "It's like this," he said. "In order to be able to pass on ammunition to the mujahideen we have to account for our own dwindling supplies--hence the attack. So we rig the whole thing up. It's a good time to arrange for journalists to be present: the photos look real enough, and it's less dangerous." Why didn't he desert? "Unfortunately the resisters are against the idea!"

10,000 Troops

But the war in Afghanistan is not always like that. In 1982, after villages in Panjshir had been systematically bombed and crops destroyed, 10,000 Soviet troops were flown in by helicopter to a dozen or so points within a few hours. The bands of guerillas, although unable to communicate with each other and so coordinate their action, kept fighting for three weeks and eventually repulsed the Russians, who took refuge in two small bases surrounded by extensive minefields. The aftermath was the usual pathetic procession of war-wounded and amputees hobbling along the roads to Pakistan.

Soviet Military Objectives

The Soviet forces have two main military objectives. First, they want to maintain a strategic corridor between the Amu Dar'ya River, which runs along

much of Afghanistan's border with the Soviet Union, and Pakistan. This Mazar-i-Sharif/Kabul/Jalalabad axis is where they have concentrated most of their troops, built two of their three largest bases (at Kalagay and Bagram), positioned their elite units, and, most unusually, set up a string of small military posts. It is there that most major operations take place, including massive reprisals (such as the recent destruction of the village of Istalif), and there, too, that the best resistance leaders are to be found.

Line of Defence Against Iran

The Russian's second, longer-term goal is to set up a forward line of defence against Iran, which is the cause of much greater concern to them than Pakistan. Since the arrest of Tudeh members last spring, the Soviet press has regularly denounced Iranian infiltration in western Afghanistan. The cordoning off of Herat is apparently aimed at countering that threat (which has been exaggerated, as far as I can ascertain) and the Shindand base makes sense only in the context of a possible conflict near the Persian Gulf.

Throughout the rest of the country, conduct of the war is in the hands of government forces, which are infiltrated and ineffective except in Paktya.

Two Different Wars

The resisters, then, are waging two different wars depending on who they face on the battlefield. Their willingness to fight is not directly connected with their armament.

They have more and better distributed weapons than before, but there has been no improvement in quality. More important, they have no anti-aircraft weapons bigger than heavy machine-guns; the few Sam-7 missiles available lie idle because no one knows how to use them. Artillery is restricted to a few old recoilless guns and mortars, often without properly trained gunners to man them. [as published]

What distinguishes the various guerilla commanders from one another are their tactics and organisation. The Afghans' instinctive way of waging war involves mass conscription among the civilian population, lack of differentiation between duties, and equal distribution of arms among villages and communities irrespective of strategic considerations. The aim is to capture weapons, not to wear down the enemy. This approach enables the guerillas to hold their ground against government forces, but not to cope with a properly mounted offensive. Men and arms are concentrated in quiet areas and often see no action for months on end--a veritable "garrison syndrome" that is paradoxical to say the least, in a guerilla war.

But the Islamist intellectual wing of the resistance has begun to put new military thinking into practice, dividing its troops into well-equipped professional assault squads and less well-armed part-time defence units. The method works for ambushes. But good tactics are not enough to coordinate the action of several mobile squads: unchallenged leadership and political control over large areas are also needed. No more than four guerilla "generals"

have achieved that, the most notable being Masud. The future of Afghanistan lies in their hands if they can avoid getting killed and transcend the divisions of Afghan society. The problem is political rather than military--as indeed the Russians have realised by adopting a more political approach in their anti-guerilla methods.

The moment Soviet forces invaded Afghanistan in December 1979, it became clear that they were ill-equipped to combat an essentially peasant resistance movement. Their aim was to neutralise Hafizullah Amin's Communist regime, not to win back rural areas.

They expected a few uprisings here and there, but were sure they would quickly peter out. In any case, the heavy, well-armoured, centralised Soviet army is designed for continuous frontal conflict, not anti-guerilla operations.

Morale among Soviet troops is low. Pilots fly at a safe height when they expect machine-gun fire, even though it is usually inaccurate. Troops show little willingness to fight and are reluctant to leave their armoured vehicles. They sell ammunition and even guns on the black market in exchange for hashish and food. Drug addiction is on the increase, and heroin, manufactured by the same laboratories that are now flooding Pakistan--and, as a result, the United States--with the drug, has just appeared on the market. Although there are few prisoners of war (as defined by the Geneva Convention) and few politically motivated deserters, increasing numbers of Soviet soldiers, sometimes drug addicts, have been abandoning their posts or allowing themselves to be captured. No one--neither the guerillas, the Western countries, the Red Cross, nor, one supposes, the Soviet government--has any idea what to do with them.

It is true that the Soviet army has made progress in the last three years: it now uses helicopter-borne troops, is more mobile, relies less on tanks, organises night ambushes, and so on. But such tactical improvements have little bearing on the overall conduct of the war. They sometimes result from the application of straightforward common sense that had been lacking over the previous three years.

Following the major offensives of 1981-82, which hit Panjshir hardest of all, 1983 saw a decrease in military operations proper. Yuri Andropov's arrival in the Kremlin confirmed an already noticeable trend: it was not the army, but the KGB, that was running the war.

The Russians hope to neutralise the resistance with a two-pronged political programme: long-term Sovietisation and short-term pacification. Sovietisation implies the integration of already detribalised elements of Afghan society into a Soviet model and, as a result, a de facto annexation of the country. Pacification consists of neutralising guerilla units one after the other, by dividing them and inciting them to lay down their weapons; it means that the traditional structures of Afghan society have to be exploited.

Sovietization

The process of Sovietisation is carried out by the Communist Party and its satellite organisations, such as youth movements, women's associations and trade unions. Young people (sometimes aged only 12) are sent to the Soviet Union on training schemes of varying duration (they now reportedly number 25,000). In all Kabul University faculties three hours a week are devoted to compulsory lectures on Marxism. Organisational structures, terminology, and even clothes are all borrowed directly from Afghanistan's larger neighbour.

Only a small fraction of detribalised young city-dwellers are affected by such propaganda, they espouse Marxism not so much because they believe in it as because it is fashionable and costs nothing. More disturbing is the process of integration: ministries are seemingly run by senior Afghan civil servants, but key posts are held by Soviet Russians.

All military, political and economic matters, from the running of the war to foreign policy and the appointment of ministers, are handled directly by Moscow. Economic integration is well under way: all Afghan natural gas goes to the Soviet Union, a second bridge over the Amu Dar'y is being built, an agreement has been concluded for building a railway network, and the few mines and factories still working are under Russian supervision.

Cultural affairs, however, are "subcontracted" to the Soviet Republic of Uzbekistan. Prof. Azimov, director of the Tashkant Academy of Sciences, travels to Kabul twice a month to oversee the activities of its Afghan sister academy. Prof. Osmanov, a Soviet Uzbek and specialist in Pushtu literature, runs the Uzbek department of the Afghan education ministry.

Although political and economic integration is going ahead slowly but surely, Sovietisation has not affected rural areas. The Communist Party is a spent and deeply divided force, and none of the so-called mass organisations has any substance except the Fatherland Front (Jebhe-ye Padrawatan) and the militiamen, who are anyway involved in the pacification, not the Sovietisation plan.

KGB-Khad

Only one government department works properly, the Khad (state information service). Modelled on, and run by, the KGB, the Khad has its own network throughout the country. Its agents work in their home areas and exploit ethnic, tribal and family ties as much as they can. Their method is simple. They exacerbate Afghan society's traditional segmentation into closely-knit opposing groups better to divide the resistance movement. They then negotiate ceasefires with local armed groups and turn them against their neighbours without demanding any ideological allegiance in return. The groups are then formed into units of government-armed militiamen (or "patriots", as they are officially called). Once this process has been completed, the machinery of state is gradually brought back into action.

To ensure the units stay together (there is no ideological bond between their members), they are supervised by their traditional chiefs and never

allowed to operate outside their own area. The chiefs belong to the Fatherland Front, which hands out emoluments and sinecures in the best tradition of the British colonial administration.

The chiefs' role is all the more vital because neither the Soviet army, nor the KGB, nor the Afghan Communist Party and army are able to provide the militiamen who have rallied to the regime with the kind of training that will motivate them. The few Soviet officers who speak fluent Persian or Pushtu never set foot outside the various provincial army headquarters, while Soviet Muslim officers are regarded as untrustworthy and given little responsibility. But the increasingly important role played by the chiefs has a major drawback: it means that there can be no talk of agrarian reform, the fight against illiteracy, women's liberation or young people's advancement. This is where pacification is incompatible with Sovietisation: the action of the Khad, and behind it the KGB, is the exact opposite of what a Communist Party is supposed to be engaged in.

Although pacification has met with some success in areas around large towns and along major highways (such as the region of Pul-i-Khumri), its limitations are obvious. The weakness of the government forces and the reluctance of Soviet troops to leave the safety of their bunkers mean that the militiamen are left out on a limb. They usually put up a good fight, better anyway than the army, until they find themselves at bay--at which point they desert en masse to the resistance. This happened recently near the government base at Khost, when militiamen belonging to the Mandozay and Ismaelkheyl clans changed sides during the mujahideen's five summer offensive. The only way to keep them in the Soviet camp would be to give them more ideologically motivated training and cover them militarily during engagements.

Like the British in the 19th century, the Russians see Afghan society as a tribal society.

Their colonial policy works well when it involves winning over small groups, but fails on a larger scale. The trouble is that they overlooked the impact of Islam, which provides Islamist guerilla leaders with a political ideology capable of overriding, to some degree, the segmentation of traditional society.

Afghanistan's historical role as a buffer state, the Soviet Union's unswerving policy of integration, and current Soviet terminology (Afghanistan is a country "on the road to socialism", which puts it just after the Socialist bloc countries and before Nicaragua, Angola and Ethiopia) all strongly suggest that the Russians are quite determined to stay put. In view of that fact, all the fuss being made about the possibility of starting negotiations in Geneva is ludicrous. The stubbornness of the Afghan resistance movement, its political and military dynamism, and the whole population's visceral aversion to the Soviet system are ample proof that Afghanistan will not go the way of Turkestan, Mongolia and Poland. As the Soviet empire becomes more extensive, it is in danger of becoming over-extended.

CSO: 4600/293

NO EVIDENCE OF NAGALAND INSURGENTS RECEIVING FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 30 Dec 83 p 16

[Text] There is no evidence that the insurgents operating in Nagaland are receiving assistance of the CIA or any other foreign agency, according to Mr S. C. Jamir, the Chief Minister of Nagaland.

Mr Jamir said in Surendranagar, Calcutta, on Thursday that the insurgents now operating from the Burma border belonged to the Federal Group and the National Council of Socialist Nagaland. At present, both the groups were "lying low", he stated.

Mr Jamir attributed this lull in their activities to the "strict" vigilance maintained by the security forces in collaboration with the State police and village guards. Moreover, he said, the people "by and large strongly feel that no development programme can be carried out without peaceful conditions in the State". He said that the people of Nagaland were "fully cooperating with the Government in consolidating and strengthening the forces of peace".

Asked whether China was helping the insurgents who sought secession from India, Mr Jamir said that at one time China used to help them with arms and ammunition. But now, China was "not supplying these directly".

Nagaland's border problem with Assam, Mr Jamir hoped, would be solved in a spirit of accommodation. He said he had discussed the problem with the Chief Minister of Assam, Mr Hiteswar Saikia at Dimapur, on December 12. The modalities for demarcation were formulated at that meeting.

Stating that almost the entire Assam-Nagaland border was under dispute, Mr Jamir said that the demarcation work would begin from Dewok river, in Sibsagar district, in Upper Assam. He said he would meet Mr Saikia again on January 31, at Sibsagar.

Mr Z. A. Phizo, now living in exile in London, does not have much of influence in Nagaland. The 82-year-old leader has remote chances of coming back to India because one of the preconditions for his return to this country is that he should declare himself a citizen of India, according to Mr Jamir.

CSO: 4600/1414

INSURGENCY IN NAGALAND, MANIPUR SEEN ON WANE

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 3 Jan 84 p 5

[Text] Kohima, January 2 (PTI).

Insurgents in both Nagaland and Manipur are now facing a tough time as the security forces have succeeded in fair measure in weaning away from the extremists the local population of the two insurgents ridden states.

The extent of alienation between the local people and the extremists can be gauged from the fact that at present there are no extremist camps within the Indian territory, Maj. Gen. V. K. Sood, GOC, Nagaland and Manipur, told a group of visiting newsmen from Gauhati.

He said besides fighting insurgency, which was now a low key, the army personnel were engaged in developmental activities like civil works, including construction of roads, bridges, providing medical services to the villagers and opening of fair price shops and schools.

It was primarily because of the benefits accruing from these activities that the local population had moved away from the insurgents towards the security forces, he claimed.

The GOC said that for the first time in a Manipur village in the western Thangkhul area, villagers gathered at Tolloi to boycott the banned National Socialist Council on Nagaland (NSCN).

They all signed a document resolving not to collect any more funds in the name of NSCN and promised to expose any villager who gives shelter to any member of the underground.

Among the villages represented in the document are Hoom, Kachia, Iora and Som Dal, the last one being the native place of the NSCN chief, Muviah Thangkhul.

Villagers Fed Up

According to Maj. Gen. Sood, this change has come because the villagers are fed up with the insurgents. Even in adjoining Burma, in two separate

incidents villagers killed a total of 26 NSCN extremists, who had gone for forcible tax collection and rations last year, he said.

Maj. Gen. Sood said that it was primarily due to the people's growing trust in the security forces that the PLA chief Themba Singh, who is now out of the country for training along with about 100 of his associates, is delaying his return to Manipur in a bid to create disturbances.

The PLA is the only effective insurgent group functioning in Manipur now. All others like the Kangleipak Communist party, Peoples Revolutionary Party of Kangleipak (PREPAK) and the Terrorist Suicide Squad (TSS) have virtually become "defunct", he said.

As a part of its programme of identifying itself more closely with the people, the army has launched various schemes, including one for a scholarship in a village in Nagaland under which over 50 local students get Rs. 50 to Rs. 100 per month.

Besides, army jawans have also constructed about 200 play grounds so far in the two states for the benefit of the people.

Another area in which the army has rendered service is in providing drinking water facilities to villagers in the two states, specially in the remote and far-flung areas.

The villagers benefitted from this programme are Poi, Tadubi, Chakhabama, Therati, Koilen, Shirafe and Khensa.

The biggest help that the army has rendered to the villagers is in throwing open fair price shops meant for the security forces.

Medical Teams

Army doctors and medical teams regularly visit the country side and villages in the two states and treat on an average 16,000 patients per month.

In fact, at army dispensaries there are more civilians than men in uniform awaiting treatment. Army jawans have also lent a helping hand in the construction of churches in these states, where religion is a major force.

Besides a fleet of army bulldozers has been pressed into service to level sites for the construction of churches and sometimes even the building materials are donated, he added.

CSO: 4600/1421

PLANS FOR INDO-SOVIET OIL PANEL MEETING TOLD

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 2 Jan 84 p 9

[Text] Moscow, January 1 (UNI).

The Indo-Soviet working group on oil will hold its first session in New Delhi in the first quarter official sources said.

The group will discuss all issues relating to collaboration in the oil industry including the setting up of the six-million-tonne Karnal oil refinery, official sources said.

Officials here expressed satisfaction at the progress of seismological work in Ranaghat, Jaguli and Krishnangar in West Bengal and drilling work in Bodra, also in West Bengal, in which areas India and the Soviet Union have been collaborating.

The repair of sick oil wells will be speeded up and Soviet specialists will shortly leave for India to take part in "reactivising" these wells, the sources said.

Indo-Soviet co-operation would also extend now to the high technology field namely computers and electronic software. India would import computers from the Soviet Union and export electronic software. The necessary arrangements for such co-operation had been completed, the sources said.

A group of Indian experts in high technology will arrive here in March or April to discuss plans for production co-operation.

India and the Soviet Union are also considering ways of exchanging technology, design and research expertise in machine building. Production co-operation is to be expanded in the Indo-Soviet plants at Durgapur and Ranchi machine-building plants.

The two sides are reported to have agreed to modernise Korba aluminium plant. Two new plants will be installed in it for the production of gallium and a special type of alumina. The Soviet Union will provide technology and knowhow.

The sources were optimistic about the future of the proposed alumina plant in Andhra Pradesh. Further talks will take place to thrash out various issues and sign an agreement.

On Indo-Soviet co-operation for setting up the Burnpur steel plant, sources said the Soviet organisations had already handed over the final feasibility report to the Indian side and follow-up action would be taken after the report is considered by the Indian side.

Coal Washeries

They expressed great hope for the two countries' co-operation in energy-fuel. The respective organisations of the two nations have been instructed to begin talks on the proposed Kahalgam thermal power station. This is a follow-up to the last session of the Indo-Soviet joint commission.

The 840-megawatt Bhagalpur power plant will be the second major power station to be built with Soviet know-how.

Prospects of setting up new coal washeries with Soviet collaboration will be discussed during the scheduled visit of coal secretary P. Lal to the Soviet Union this April. The visit comes at the invitation of Soviet deputy coal minister, V. V. Belyi.

Sources also disclosed that Soviet experts would visit India shortly for assisting building dams with the Soviet directional blast technology.

CSO: 4600/1419

PROTOCOL ON JOINT AUTHORSHIP SIGNED WITH USSR

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 25 Dec 83 p 7

[Text]

India and Soviet Union on Saturday signed a protocol for exploring the possibilities of joint authorships between Indian and Soviet scholars in the translation and adaptation of books and for extending its scope to cover the fields of para-medical training, craftsmanship, pedagogy and physical education as well as humanities, reports PTI.

The decision to have joint authorship between the scholars was taken by the Indo-Soviet Text Book Board which met here under the cultural, scientific and educational exchange programme signed between the two countries on 17 May, 1983.

The Indian delegation at the Indo-Soviet Text Book Boards was led by Mrs Sheila Kaul, the Minister of State for Education, Culture and Social Welfare. The Soviet delegation was headed by Prof. N S Egorov, Deputy Minis-

ter for Higher and Specialised Secondary Education of USSR.

The Indo-Soviet Text Book Board at its meeting recognised the usefulness of the programme and recommended that the programme be strengthened by exploring possibilities of joint authorship between Indian and Soviet scholars in the translation and adaptation of books and extending its scope of various subjects.

About 425 standard works of Soviet origin selected by Indian experts (mainly in the subject fields of science, technology, medicine and agriculture) have so far been brought out in English under this programme. The Board's meetings are held alternatively in Moscow and New Delhi to review the progress made and to resolve practical difficulties that arise in the implementation of the programme.

CSO: 4600/1407

PAPERS REPORT, REACT TO CPSU STATEMENT ON INDIA

G. K. Reddy Report

Madras THE HINDU in English 25 Dec 83 p 1

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Dec. 24.

The declaration of the Soviet Communist Party, made after the regular weekly meeting of its politburo last night, reaffirming Moscow's desire and determination to further "deepen and develop" its political and economic links with India, has not aroused any great interest in Delhi, since it is only a reiteration of the current policy line so eloquently espoused by Pravda on October 22 in a special editorial on Indo-Soviet relations.

But some significance is being attached to the timing of the new politburo statement since it has come in the wake of the latest visits to India by the Soviet First Deputy Premier, Mr. I. V. Arkhipov, and the chief of the Soviet Air Force, Marshal P. S. Kutakhov, besides other on-going contacts between the two Governments.

PM's leadership praised: The Pravda editorial had hailed India's foreign policy and its role as chairman of the non-aligned movement as well as the country's economic progress and social objectives. It had also praised the leadership of the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, and her efforts to promote better international understanding and preserve peace. In stressing the importance of closer Indo-Soviet relations, it had left the two Indian communist parties in no doubt whatsoever that Moscow wanted to strengthen Mrs. Gandhi's position both on the domestic and international fronts.

The statement said the politburo had discussed a number of "concrete measures aimed at further deepening and developing of traditional friendly ties between India and the Soviet Union".

After the present Soviet President, Mr. Andropov, succeeded Brezhnev, he initiated the practice of publicising the decisions of the politburo to keep the Soviet people better informed of the policies and actions of the new Government. He also made it obligatory for the politburo to meet at least

once a week to give the character of a collective approach to important issues by associating his senior party comrades with all governmental decisions.

It was against this background that the statement on Indo-Soviet relations was issued after the weekly politburo meeting last night. Mr. Arkhipov, who is a member of the politburo, would have reported to his colleagues on the outcome of his talks with Mrs. Gandhi and others in Delhi on both political and economic issues.

Defence cooperation: It is quite possible that Marshal Kutakhov, who returned to Moscow yesterday after a five-day goodwill visit, had also kept the Soviet leadership informed of his talks on increased Indo-Soviet defence cooperation. A new feature of this relationship is that the supply of equipment or arrangements for licensed production in India relate to the latest weapon systems, not to the earlier generation ones as in the past.

This new approach enables India to derive the full benefit of Soviet research and development in the defence sphere, without waiting for many years to get equipment that is in the process of being passed over by subsequent advances both in design and performance. The Soviet Union has promised, for example, the very latest MIG aircraft, which has not yet been given a serial marking but it is generally referred to as MIG-31 and nicknamed "Foxhound" by the NATO air forces.

The Japanese press reported recently, quoting international military sources, that the first few MIG-31s have already made their appearance in the Sakhalin island to fill the gaps in the Soviet air defence system that became apparent during the shooting down of the Korean Airlines plane. If these reports are true, it means that the MIG-31 has already gone into production and India can expect to have some of these planes before long, although their indigenous production under licence would take some time.

Press Agency's Interpretation

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 25 Dec 83 pp 1, 7

[Text] Moscow, Dec 24 (PTI)--The Soviet leadership has decided to provide political, economic and defence backing to India with which it has

'traditionally friendly ties' at a time when it perceives that critical days are ahead for the country.

This is the construction diplomatic circles put on the communique published in this morning's papers here of the Soviet communist politburo--the nation's top policy making body.

The politburo said it was 'consolidation of close cooperation between the two countries in the political, economic, cultural and other spheres'.

The politburo at the same time affirmed the great significance it attaches to Indo-Soviet joint efforts to remove threat of war and ensure peace on the Asian continent and all over the world.

The words chosen by the politburo is evocative of the preamble to the 1971 Indo-Soviet treaty of peace, friendship and cooperation and signifies the Soviet leadership's recognition of the role played by Mrs Indira Gandhi as chair person of the non-aligned movement in helping consolidate world peace observers here say.

This appreciation of the role of India is something the Soviet leadership wants its own party and State machinery to know. And the message is bound to reach the people of the Soviet Union and other countries, especially when the politburo gives it precedence over the visit of the Finnish Premier and Foreign Minister to Moscow, the participation of the CPSU delegation at the Portuguese Communist Party Congress and the talks held here with a German Communist Party delegation.

The timing of the message is linked in diplomatic circles, to apprehensions voiced here about an American 'political game' to destabilise India on the eve of parliamentary elections.

A Tass commentary earlier this week charged Washington with a bid to spread terrorism within India and to rearm Pakistan with a view to remove Mrs Gandhi from the political scene and Congress-I from the government.

The politburo has made it clear that the Soviets will match words with deeds, by announcing that it has taken 'a number of concrete measures' in support of India.

The reference in the economic sphere is clearly to the steps taken at the New Delhi meeting of the inter-governmental Indo-Soviet commission. This includes the trade plan for 1984 and programmes for economic cooperation and for scientific-technical collaboration.

An act of political support the Soviet leadership has taken is to send a three member delegation of the CPSU central committee to the Calcutta session of the Indian National Congress-I next week at the invitation of its working committee.

The politburo communique did not specifically refer to any measures in the defence field, but it obviously had this in mind when it talked of cooperation in other spheres.

In view of the acquisition by Pakistan of extremely sophisticated weaponry the Soviets have offered to sell India equally sophisticated weaponry it needs, it is reliably learnt.

There is reason to believe that the assessment of India's need by the Soviet defence delegation to India headed by Deputy Defence Minister Marshal Pavel Kutakhov was available to the politburo at the time it held its weekly meeting.

CSO: 4600/1407

POSSIBILITY OF 'ARAFAT DELHI VISIT NOTED

Madras THE HINDU in English 26 Dec 83 p 1

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Dec. 25.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation leader, Mr. Yasser Arafat, has started canvassing the support of many non-aligned countries for setting up a provisional Palestine Government with wide representation to regain lost initiative and consolidate his position.

He is reported to be in touch with some moderate Arab countries, including Tunisia and Algeria, for the location of his government in exile, to be able to maintain contact with both Western and Soviet bloc countries without getting himself too closely identified with extremists like the Libyan President, Col. Qadhafi, or Col. Ali Abdullah Saleh of North Yemen.

Apart from seeking reconciliation with the Syrian President, Mr. Hafez Assad, and the rival PLO leader, Mr. Abu Saleh, who want to oust him, Mr. Arafat is also keen on utilising the good offices of moderate Arab leaders like the Egyptian President, Mr. Hosni Mubarak, to help him improve his relations with King Hussein of Jordan.

Mr. Arafat is also reported to be counting on the support of the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, in stabilising his position both in the Arab world and within the non-aligned movement. He has continued to maintain close contacts with both Iraq and Iran despite their continuing conflict, besides receiving sympathetic backing from the leaders of the other Gulf States.

Hard pressed: The hard-pressed PLO chief, who has managed to keep up his contact with friendly countries like India even from besieged Tripoli in Lebanon, is said to be anxious that the forthcoming Arab summit in Saudi Arabia should carry forward the moves initiated at the last one in Morocco for a comprehensive political settlement with Israel that could lead to the creation of an independent Palestinian State. His meeting with Mr. Mubarak in Cairo as a prelude to a new move to bring Egypt back into the Arab mainstream is part of this effort to pave the way for collective talks with Israel involving all others like

Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and PLO directly affected by Israeli aggression.

Visit to India? It is considered quite likely that, after he has made some headway with his moves to restore Arab unity, Mr. Arafat might pay a visit to India to meet Mrs. Gandhi to secure her support for his new peace initiatives. In his new role as a man of moderation, he might also try to get in touch with the leaders of those Western countries which have either recognised the PLO or allowed it to maintain offices in their capitals to propagate its cause.

The traumatic experience he has gone through of suffering humiliation not only at the hands of Israel but also from his own erstwhile colleagues has evidently chastened Mr. Arafat and made him less militant in his political attitudes. If he cannot altogether abandon the path of an armed struggle to secure justice for the Palestinian people, he is evidently prepared to shed the image of a revolutionary leader relying heavily on the cult of violence.

The tragedy of Lebanon has made even the U.S. realise that there can be no lasting peace in West Asia without a settlement of the Palestinian problem and that Israel with all its military might cannot live with any reasonable measure of security in the midst of a hostile Arab world, no matter how far the U.S. goes in backing it.

Talks: The Indian view is that the current crisis in Lebanon cannot be resolved without some progress in opening the way for a proper dialogue between Israel and the Arab States. But its dialogue cannot commence until Israel gives some indication of its readiness to give up the occupied Arab territories, especially Golan Heights, to induce Syria to pull out of Lebanon.

The PLO chief might still prove to be a man of destiny in the history of the world, if he is able to find some way of cutting this Gordian knot without compromising the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. And he can count on the whole-hearted support of countries like India for ending the current deadlock.

JANATA PRESIDENT HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 4 Jan 84 pp 1, 9

[Text] New Delhi, Jan. 3.--The Janata Party president, Mr Chandra Shekhar, said here today that his party was ready "for a merger of the Opposition parties, an electoral adjustment among them, or a united front to be composed of them". But this unity had to be based on a common agreed programme, he added.

Addressing a Press conference, Mr Chandra Shekhar said that such unity was desirable and should be attempted in all earnestness. As far as he was concerned, he was prepared to approach "anybody and everybody" without any preconditions to achieve the aim, because the main objective was to ensure that the Opposition vote was not split.

According to Mr Chandra Shekhar, the Opposition should not seek to be a substitute of the Congress (I) "that is perpetuating the interests of the privileged and exploiting classes, while mouthing the word socialism", but it should be an alternative to the ruling party, clearly laying down its policies on basic issues like growth of monopolies, minorities, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Mr Chandra Shekhar, who hoped that Opposition leaders would change their attitude on the issue of unity, said his party colleagues, Mr George Fernandes and Mr Biju Patnaik had met the Lok Dal president, Mr Charan Singh, but nothing had been reported as yet.

Asked whether in his scheme of unity, there was any place for the Bharatiya Janata Party (because in 1977 the Janata Party had split on the issue of the Jana Sangh's links with the RSS). Mr Chandra Shekhar said politics was a game of reciprocity and he did not believe in the theory of untouchability in this field. But, he added that the question of the BJP's links with the RSS would have to be sorted out. However, he did not think it was insuperable, and "if Mr Vajpayee implements the policies he had once laid down in a newspaper article", the BJP's inclusion in a common front would be possible.

Asked about the Left parties, Mr Chandra Shekhar said if they desired to be friendly, "we would also be friendly".

Commenting on the results of the recent by-elections, Mr Chandra Shekhar said the Janata Party had not done badly, "but I am sad about the whole thing". The Opposition would have done better if all the parties had realized their limitations. The strength of the Opposition parties had not been reflected in the results because they were divided. This should give an impetus to the Opposition unity on more reasonable grounds.

Mr Chandra Shekhar criticized the Prime Minister bitterly for degrading the level of politics in the country in her bid to perpetuate her rule and to build the image of her son, Mr Rajiv Gandhi. He accused her of being the worst destabilizing factor in the country and of trying to disintegrate it.

Mr Chandra Shekhar was asked to comment on Mrs Gandhi's remarks in the Calcutta Congress (I) session that the Opposition parties were "opportunistic". He replied that Mrs Gandhi had denegated not only the Opposition parties, but even senior members of her own party. The Calcutta session reflected the utter contempt that the Congress (I) leadership had for democratic values, mass sentiments and public opinion.

Mr Chandra Shekhar pointed out that Mrs Gandhi did not stop at merely downgrading all Opposition parties. In her presence, the report of the general secretaries was accepted by the plenary session. It had referred to some party members, such as Mr Brahmananda Reddy or Mr Y. B. Chavan, as "deserters and spineless sycophants". The Janata chief said: "It is not what she had been saying about our United Front, but about her own colleagues. This is the type of politics Mrs Gandhi wants to introduce in this country, by arrogating to herself the dignity of politicians whether of her own party, or of the Opposition. She is the worst destabilizing factor in the country".

Mr Chandra Shekhar said even in the Germany of Hitler at least a few of his colleagues were left out and not denigrated, "but Mrs Gandhi is arrogating to herself the dignity of her own colleagues and of the Opposition. She also thinks that she is the only patriot in this nation and condemns everybody else. This is the tendency in the Prime Minister that has to be fought."

The Janata leader said that Mrs Gandhi claimed that she would bring socialism, "but she will bring socialism without harming the interests of the privileged and exploiting classes". The Janata Government during its regime had tried to expand the small-scale sector in industry, but Mrs Gandhi had changed that policy. There were more than a hundred items which had been included by the Janata in the small sector, but such changes had been made in the nomenclature that "confectionary is in the small sector, but except chocolates which can be made by a multinational and motor radiators can be manufactured in small-scale sector, except those made in aluminium, which only an Indian monopoly house makes".

Mr Chandra Shekhar said Mrs Gandhi reverted to socialism and thought of the poor only when the spectre of poll haunted her.

The Janata leader said that 1983 had been one of the darkest years in the history of independent India claiming the maximum number of victims killed

in ethnic or communal riots but the nominated delegates of the Congress (I) plenary did not think it fit to express concern at the increase in communal riots, atrocities against Harijans and Adivasis.

Referring to Mrs Gandhi's talk of dangers of war, he said it was her duty to convene a meeting of political leaders and share with them the Government's assessment of the situation. To understand and appreciate a security situation was very different from attempts to create panic in the country and then blame the Opposition parties, Mr Chandar Shekhar said.

Every one, he said, was concerned at the increasing militarization of Pakistan but, one failed to understand why the Government felt it fit to cancel contacts at the Foreign Secretary level.

Accusing the Congress (I) leadership of dividing the nation for partisan gains, Mr Chandra Shekhar said it was refusing to take political steps to resolve the crisis in Punjab and Assam. It was also extending the areas of conflict and tension, like that in Kashmir.

CSO: 4600/1423

GANDHI SPEAKS AT PUNJABI WRITERS CONFERENCE

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 24 Dec 83 pp 1, 7

[Text] Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on Friday cautioned against alien attacks on the Indian traditions, philosophy and culture and sought the help of the writers and intellectuals to provide the ammunition of thinking to fight back report agencies.

Mrs Gandhi warned that the threat came from outside forces which did not want the country to become strong.

The Prime Minister said the country could face those threats and challenges only if it remained united and its intelligentsia was alive to the danger.

Mrs Gandhi was inaugurating the Third World Punjabi writers conference in New Delhi.

Punjabi writers from the UK, Canada, USSR, US, Sweden, Poland, Singapore, Japan, Pakistan and from all parts of the country are participating in the conference.

Reading Habit

She called for inculcating in the people the reading habit in order to generate patronage to writers and poets; Mrs Gandhi said poor sale of books was a problem faced by not only Punjabi writers.

Kerala had the highest literacy, but writers there also had the same problems. Mrs Gandhi said poor readership of books was not only an Indian problem, but a worldwide phenomenon, mainly arising from numerous means of entertainment available to the people.

The Prime Minister said the Government promoted all languages, but its means were limited and hence the patronage which the writers and poets used to get from the erstwhile rajas and maharajas could come only from the common man by inculcating in him the habit of reading.

Mrs Gandhi referred to all earlier speeches at the conference made in Punjabi and pointed out that she understood the language and could also

speak a few words, but she dare not with the august audience of Punjabi literateurs.

She spoke in Hindi, hitting out at the outset at equating 'Punjabi-ism', the theme of the conference, with the chivalry of men. She said the conference organisers should not forget the women.

Mrs Gandhi said the language could play havoc or do wonders and she wanted the latter for increasing the bond of friendship among people.

Punjabis Lauded

Mrs Gandhi, who recalled her close affinity with the State of Punjab from where her grandmother hailed, lauded the role of Punjabis in various spheres of national life. "There is hardly a State where the enterprising people of Punjab have not settled," she said. They could do so because of their adaptability and assimilation with other people.

Mrs Gandhi said Punjabis had suffered the most during the partition. They had to leave their hearth and homes and property in Pakistan. But they did not ask for any help from any quarter.

By their sheer hard work and determination they not only rehabilitated themselves but helped the country to forge ahead.

The tremendous progress made by Punjab in the field of agriculture helped the country to achieve self-sufficiency in food grains. But howsoever strong a part of the country might be, its strength lay in it being part of a bigger whole. "If it gives power in a particular sphere it also derives its strength from the mother unit," she said.

In the present-day interdependent world, she said, even countries which had split apart for historic reasons were now trying to reunite and increase cooperation in various aspects of human activities.

Lok Sabha Speaker Balram Jakhar, who is the chairman of the conference reception committee, said Punjabi-ism selected as the theme of the meet included culture, history, language, affection and everything Punjabis were proud of.

He regretted the damage being inflicted to Punjab by the differences between Sikhs and Hindus, both of whom speak Punjabi and take pride in their old heritage and culture.

Dr V N Tewari, president of the national preparatory committee, in his key-note address said the language and religion were so mixed up in Punjab that the Punjabi language had quite often been a casualty and the concept of Punjabi-ism becoming a kind of hearsay.

Dr Tewari said the challenge before the Punjabi writers was to overpower the communalism spreading in Punjab. He said Punjabis were unfortunately not behaving as Punjabis, "but are being split as Hindus and Sikhs."

Delhi's Lt Governor Jagmohan and Chief Executive Councillor Jag Parvesh Chandra were among those who spoke at the inaugural session.

CSO: 4600/1404

GANDHI PRESS CONFERENCE, SPEECH IN PATNA REPORTED

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 5 Jan 84 p 1

[Text] Patna, January 4 (PTI).

The Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, today reiterated that the activities of anti-social and anti-national elements had increased in Jammu and Kashmir.

Similar was the situation prevailing in West Bengal, Mrs. Gandhi told newsmen at the airport before emplaning for New Delhi here this evening.

The Prime Minister said that though the activities of anti-national elements had increased, there was no proposal to dismiss the state governments in those two states.

About the Punjab problem, Mrs. Gandhi said that as far as the Centre was concerned it had already conceded some of the demands of the Akalis. In her view the Punjab problems had been solved and the Centre had now nothing to do with the demands of Akalis, she added.

Individual Acts

The Prime Minister said that there was no mass agitation in Punjab. There was individual terrorism.

Mrs. Gandhi alleged that Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale had been making irresponsible statements which were against the interests of the country. He was not being taken into custody in the interests of peace, she said.

Earlier, inaugurating the silver jubilee celebration of the Anugurah Narain Sinha institute of social studies, Mrs. Gandhi said that multidisciplinary research would strengthen the analytical base of our knowledge and draw the attention of the planners and politicians to the linkage in social, economic and political changes.

She said our educational system must prepare our young people to be more responsible and resourceful.

It must take note of the problems, needs and aspirations of youth as well as the challenges of a changing world. It would teach our young people to see regional problems in the national context and national problems in the international perspective. It should inculcate moral and social values, attitudes of non-violence and tolerance.

The worth of a civilisation, she said, is measured by its appreciation of excellence and beauty. Institutes like this can help by critically examining the diverse impact of our economic action, she added.

Rapid Progress

Mrs. Gandhi said that the growing regionalism, sectionalism, casteism and population were some of the basic problems facing the country. It was the moral responsibility of intellectuals, research scholars and scientists to go deep into the causes of these problems and find out proper solutions, she added.

Claiming rapid progress on all fronts, including science and technology, despite several constraints the country, she said, had spent Rs. 1,450 billion on planning since independence. But considering the vastness and growth of the country the expenditure was not adequate. Nevertheless planning had been successful and the country had made rapid progress, she said.

Mrs. Gandhi emphasised the need for maximum utilisation of science and technology for accelerating the pace of development. Though there is shortage of energy we have to utilise every bit of our resources available in the country for all-round development, she said.

Paying tributes to the late Mr. A. N. Sinha, the Prime Minister described him as "a great freedom-fighter and an able son of India." She hoped that the institute named after him would continue to serve the state.

Earlier, the chief minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar Singh, welcoming the Prime Minister, detailed various achievements of the institute. He said that the performance of the institute in the field of research was "commendable."

The director of the institute, Mr. Durganand Sinha, drew the Prime Minister's attention to various problems including paucity of funds. He said that in the absence of adequate grants, research work had suffered. He hoped that the state government would take steps and increase the grants.

Inaugurating the all-India primary teachers' conference at the Moinul Haque stadium here, Mrs. Gandhi underlined the need for giving utmost importance to primary and secondary schools.

The very future of the nation depended on the young boys and girls reading in primary and secondary schools, she said.

She said it was the primary duty of teachers to teach the students to keep themselves away from communalism, casteism and violence.

To launch movements to press for their demands, she said, was easy but once it was done the anti-social elements invariably infiltrated leading to violent situations.

Mrs. Gandhi said we should try to modernise the present education system keeping our tradition and culture intact.

'No Takeover'

She expressed herself against stage take-over of private educational institutions and said once we do so many programmes in the educational field will have to be shelved.

However, the exploitation of teachers in private educational institutions such as irregular payment of salary and payment of low salary must stop, she said.

The Prime Minister made it clear that the Centre did not want to impose any language on anybody.

She said she believed in the diversity of India and giving due recognition to regional personalities of different sections of society.

However, it would be good if the people of the country spoke one language, she said, and added that Hindi was chosen as the national language as it was spoken by 40 per cent of the total population and understood by 60 per cent of the people.

She said Hindi was the only language which could be the link language in the country and English the international link language.

Mrs. Gandhi spoke in English for a few minutes at the end of her speech as the delegates coming from southern states did not understand Hindi.

The Union minister of state for education, Mrs. Sheila Kaul, presided.

Addressing a mammoth public meeting, she cautioned the people against the threat of nuclear war and asked them to remain vigilant to face it.

CSO: 4600/1428

CPI-M LEADER TELLS STAND ON CENTRALIZATION

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 24 Dec 83 pp 1, 9

[Text] Mr E. M. S. Namboodiripad, general secretary of the CPI(M), said in Calcutta on Friday that centralization of power was necessary in India because a war was "at the doorstep of our country" and the dangers posed by divisive forces operating in the country were "real" though he added that centralization should be combined with democracy.

Mr Namboodiripad said that according to the CPI(M) only the Central Government could coordinate the economic development of the country but the Centre should carry out the task in consultation with the States. The CPI(M) leader was speaking at a seminar on "Decentralization of Political and Economic Power" at the Jaya Prakash Jatiya Mela.

Mr Namboodiripad said that, carried to the extreme both centralization and decentralization could be harmful. The programmes of Acharya Binobha Bhabe were instances of extreme decentralization. Mrs Gandhi's experiment with Emergency was an extreme example of centralization. He warned that Mrs Gandhi might try to implement similar measures again.

He said that centralization was not a legal or Constitutional issue; it was a political question which depended on the world situation, the economic scene and the state of politics. The world was faced with the danger of a nuclear war. The incidents in Sri Lanka, Pakistan and the Indian Ocean showed that there was an imperialist attempt to encircle India. He did not think that by talking about the threat of a war the Centre was merely raising a bogey. "It is a question to which no realistic politician can be blind".

He, however, added that the Centre could not fight the dangers of war and an imperialist encirclement without taking the people and the Opposition parties with it. The division in the Opposition could be used to get votes but one could not take on "American imperialists", "Pakistani militarists" and disruptive forces alone. It was important to arrive at a national consensus but the Centre could not impose the consensus on others.

Mr Namboodiripad said that he had disagreed with Jaya Prakash on the question of decentralization. He felt that a talk of Gandhian revolution was "not sensible" and the Gandhian slogan of a self-sufficient village was "absurd". He felt it was "unfortunate" that Jaya Prakash who had been a leader of the Congress Socialist Party went back to Gandhism later.

CSO: 4600/1403

MUFTI SAYS KASHMIR TRYING CONGRESS-I WORKERS

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 2 Jan 84 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, January 1 (PTI).

The Jammu and Kashmir pradesh Congress president, Mufti Mohammed Syed, today said the state government was launching summary trials of Congress workers arrested for participating in "democratic and peaceful demonstrations."

He told a press conference here that the state was resorting to a criminal law enacted during the late Sheikh Abdullah's time to deal with secessionist and anti-national elements and described the state government's plan as "Nuremberg-like" trial.

The Congress leader said the law provided for summary trial and put the onus on the accused to prove their innocence.

Order to Judges

Mufti Mohammed said the government wanted the sessions judges of Anantnag, Badgam and Baramulla to conduct the trial at the Srinagar central jail of 100 of his party workers arrested recently during a demonstration. Following their refusal, it had obtained a direction yesterday from the vacation judge of the Jammu and Kashmir high court to the sessions judge to conduct the trial at the Srinagar central jail.

He said his party would go to the supreme court against the high court order but wanted the legal luminaries to go into the issue.

Mufti Mohammed said the sessions judges had refused on the ground it was the government's duty to maintain law and order while bringing the accused to courts for trial. He said if the state home minister's claim that the law and order situation was normal then the government should not fight shy of bringing the Congress workers to courts. During trial in jail witnesses could not be produced, he said.

He alleged that since the National Conference came to power in July last it had unleashed a campaign of hatred against the Centre and violence against the Congress workers.

He also charged the government with encouraging anti-national and secessionist forces like Awami Action Party and Jamat-E-Islami. No action was taken against workers of these parties for indulging in violence, while Congressmen were charged with serious offences like murder and arson for "peaceful" agitations.

Mufti Mohammed said a serious situation was developing and if it was allowed to drift it would be difficult to manage it later. He asked the Centre to take necessary action as it deemed fit.

UNI adds: Mufti Mohammed also challenged the claim of the state government that the law and order situation in the state was "normal."

Describing the situation in the state as "dangerous," he charged the National Conference government with providing protection to Sikh extremists, anti-national and communal forces in the state.

Mufti Mohammed said the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, had expressed her "concern" over the law and order situation in Jammu and Kashmir at the recently concluded session of the Congress in Calcutta.

Questioning the legitimacy of the Farooq Abdullah government, the Mufti said all the charges levelled by the Congress of alleged rigging and misuse of government machinery during last assembly elections had been endorsed by the election commission also.

Press Guttled

He said immediately after the elections, the National Conference had let loose its terror against the Congress workers. The houses of the Congressmen were being burnt and its supporters were being deprived of even the normal facilities including rations.

He said since September 15, all Congress processions and meetings were attacked by National Conference workers in the state. Even the police had joined hands with these workers, he alleged.

Jammu (PTI): A devastating fire has gutted the main wing of the state government printing press located in the Ambphala area of the city, according to official sources.

The fire on Saturday night completely reduced to ashes official records and paper lying in the building. The fire brigade fought blaze for several hours. However, the printing machines in the adjacent building have remained safe.

UNI adds: Mir Nassatulah took over as the chief secretary of Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday.

CSO: 4600/1428

CPI-M LEADER RULES OUT MERGER WITH CPI

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 2 Jan 84 p 1

[Text] Bangalore, Jan. 1 (PTI)--CPI (M) general secretary E M S Namboodiripad, said today that his party would have electoral alliance only with that front which agreed on the "broad principles of anti-imperialist foreign policy and radical democratic and secular internal policies."

The Indira Government, he said had adopted correct position on "many questions of foreign policy" and his party would lend its "unreserved" support to such policies.

However, he ruled out an "overall support" to the government's foreign policy as the dependence on the IMF, the World Bank, and the private multi-nationals was an inseparable part of foreign policy. Vacillations on anti-imperialism reflected this dependence, he alleged.

Mr Namboodiripad ruled out the possibility of a merger of the two Communist parties during 1984, although both the CPI and CPI (M) were coming closer and closer. We are very close today but this is something different from merger.

When a correspondent asked whether CPI (M) was not coming closer to the Congress-I, Mr Namboodiripad shot back: what do you think of Mrs Indira Gandhi's speeches (criticism against Marxists). I can't answer prejudices.

Asked about unity of opposition parties to fight elections, Mr Namboodiripad said "we will think of it when elections come." He said certain opposition parties had already been holding joint meetings to devise ways and means for creating a common countrywide movement on some burning problems, including corruption and alleged Congress-I move to topple non-Congress-I governments. About a dozen parties would be meeting in Calcutta from 13 to 15 January, he said.

Mr Namboodiripad said the Janata party government in Karnataka had achieved 'many things' and his party would continue to provide its support.

Asked whether he was personally satisfied about its functioning, he said, "I am not fully satisfied with the functioning of any government."

CSO: 4600/1420

ANALYST NOTES IMPORTANCE OF ELECTION YEAR BUDGET

Madras THE HINDU in English 26 Dec 83 p 9

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Dec. 25.

The Government has started work on the broad outlines of the 1984-85 Central Budget which will be of considerable political importance for the Congress (I) because of the approaching Parliamentary elections.

Though there may not be any reduction in direct taxes, the Finance Minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, is expected to implement some of the recommendations of the L. K. Jha Commission for streamlining the tax structure, providing for some reliefs in the course of revenue collection.

But an effort is being made to take some steps even before the presentation of the Budget for dealing with the price situation which has been causing concern to the Government. The briefs prepared for the Prime Minister and the Finance Minister contain suggestions for quicker action, which they might announce at the Calcutta session of the Congress (I) if it is considered desirable to do so for political reasons.

No shortages: The Cabinet Sub-Committee concerned and the Committee of Secretaries have been studying the problem of prices, both in its immediate budgetary and long-term economic contexts, because a fresh bout of inflation beyond a point could assume political overtones in an election year. But the Government seems to be drawing some comfort from the fact that the distress caused by the price rise is not being aggravated by real or artificial shortages of any commodities of mass consumption, since almost everything is available these days provided the people have the money to buy them.

The Government is also thanking its stars that the repayment of the IMF loan will not commence until 1985-86 with the result that it will not be obliged to go in for any extra dose of taxes other than the normal annual hikes. Any stiff increases in direct or indirect taxes on the eve of parliamentary elections could be a major embarrassment to the ruling party during the campaign.

Rajiv's hint: A hint was given by the Congress (I) General Secretary, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi,

the other day that the Government might legalise company donations to political parties as one way of discouraging malpractices in fund collections. But this is not going to deter the generation of black money or prevent corruption in public life, since nobody is going to give anybody anything without expecting in return some compensating benefits.

The budget exercise which normally begins in November concentrates first on the expenditure part of it before coming to grips with the revenue requirements. But no Finance Minister has really succeeded in curbing the spending spree of various Ministries and departments with the result that he is obliged to raise additional revenues through increased taxation to meet the mounting Governmental expenditure.

Illusion of concessions: The indications so far are that no determined effort is being made even this time to enforce any substantial reduction in expenditure, which means that there will be no scope at all even for limited tax concessions in the budget. So, the Finance Minister will have to resort to some gimmicks to create an illusion of concessions in an election year, while providing for some marginal reliefs to woo the big business houses to make them donate generously with promises of further concessions after the elections.

According to one estimate, the Congress (I) alone would require at least Rs. 50 crores to fight the Parliamentary elections in 544 constituencies and much more for the subsequent Assembly poll in nine or 10 States. The Opposition parties, too, will have to raise funds, even if it is on a relatively smaller scale, for their campaigns.

Sop to industry: The Indian industry cannot cough out Rs. 100 to Rs. 150 crores during the next 18 months to foot the bill of these expensive election campaigns without Budget concessions to enable it to generate surplus resources, whether it is in white or black money, to finance this high cost political system. And this compulsion to placate the big business will compel the Government to continue to seek the common man irrespective of the exigencies of the approaching elections.

COMMERCE MINISTER SAYS TALLOW IMPORT ISSUE CLOSED

Madras THE HINDU in English 23 Dec 83 p 9

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Dec. 22.

The Government has put in abeyance the licences of 193 importers of tallow, the Union Commerce Minister Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh told the Lok Sabha tonight. He was replying to a four-hour debate on tallow import and its reported misuse for adulteration of vanaspati in some parts of the country.

The Government had acted swiftly after the malpractice came to light and had firmly banned the import of all kinds of animal tallow "as a measure of abundant caution" in deference to the peoples' sentiment.

"No one had been spared however high and mighty he may be." The Central Bureau of Investigation had registered cases against firms which imported tallow and the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports had also initiated legal action for the proper disposal of imported stocks of tallow. Stocks lying at ports were being re-exported, he said.

Mr. Singh said the Government would continue its ruthless hunt against unscrupulous elements and "shall compromise with none".

The Vishwa Hindu Parishad had complimented the Government for its firm action in banning the import of tallow by observing: "This action of the Government has provided a great relief to the cow worshipping Hindu society."

Mr. V. P. Singh said it was not he but some Opposition parties which had tried to make the alleged adulteration of vanaspati a political issue. He had simply performed his duty in informing the House — in reply to a question — the name of the Minister in the Janata Government who had liberalised the import of tallow.

The Commerce Minister referred to the demand for a judicial inquiry by some Opposition members and said the matter was before the courts in the writ petition filed by Mr. Raj Narein. A judicial probe would reveal nothing in respect of the Janata period when free import of tallow had been sanctified by law.

With the total ban on imports of all animal tallow, future debates on the issue were foreclosed. Import of animal tallow had become a phenomena of the past and with each passing day the debate was becoming

one of history as to who did what and when. Fury was being now spent on apportioning blame, he said.

Angry exchanges: The Minister's reply was marked by some angry exchanges between treasury benches and the Opposition, particularly when the Minister made some remarks about Mr. Charan Singh.

Prof. Madhu Dandevate (Janata) rose to tell the Minister: If you want to attack him politically, please do so. But don't use the language which is unbecoming of you. What you are doing is character assassination.

Mr. Singh retorted that he was only quoting from "policy books of Janata time".

The Minister said tallow was taken out of OGL list and its import was again canalised in June 1981.

No adulteration: Intervening in the debate, the Food and Civil Supplies Minister Mr. Bhagwat Jha Azad said there was no adulteration of vanaspati at manufacturers' level. He accused certain political parties of creating a scare for "political motives with an eye on mid-term elections."

Mr. Azad told those parties: "Please don't give a wrong impression to the poor people, who are using this cooking medium. Spreading such a scare is a crime against them."

The Minister announced that a fresh order had been issued under which vanaspati manufacturers would have to give details on every tin or pack specifying the ingredients. The manufacturers had also been asked to ensure that at least 10 per cent of their total production was in small packs.

Mr. Azad said he was prepared to enquire into any specific complaint. But he turned down the demand for a general enquiry. "An enquiry into what?" he asked.

Probe demanded: Initiating the debate, Dr. Subramaniam Swamy (Janata) demanded a judicial inquiry into the import of animal tallow.

Dr. Swamy said he had definite information that the State Trading Corporation had been importing cheaper beef tallow in the name of mutton tallow. For this the STC officials managed to get a false certificate from the sellers abroad.

He alleged that STC officials were in league with "somebody" and had "siphoned away" Rs. 12 crores in the past three years as beef tallow was cheaper than mutton tallow in international markets.

Dr. Swamy wondered how private parties like Jain Shudh Vanaspathi managed to import 200,000 tonnes of beef tallow, when all tallow imports had been canalised through the STC.

The Jain Shudh Vanaspathi's consignment of beef tallow had been seized by Bombay Customs after June 1981. But when Rs. 1.09 crores was paid as fine it was allowed to go. The company made a profit of Rs. 11 crore on the consignment, he said.

Mr. K. C. Pandey (Congress-I) said the BJP and the Janata Party were trying to malign the Congress (I) Government. It was he who had raised the matter of adulteration of vanaspathi with tallow following which Chief Ministers and the Centre had started proceedings against the unscrupulous businessmen. The Congress (I) would not have done this had it been a party to the crime committed by those who, he implied, were associated with the Opposition parties.

Mr. Somnath Chatterji (CPM) pleaded for continuance of tallow import for the sake of industrial units that used it as basic raw material. By banning the import the Government was "pampering religious obscurantism".

Acharya Bhagwan Dev (Congress-I) accused the Opposition leaders of adopting double standard as those who ate meat had no

right to raise the tallow issue. He demanded action against the organisers of the "Ekamata Yagna".

Dr. Karan Singh (Ind) said the discussion on the tallow issue should be kept above party politics.

Mr. Uma Kant Mishra (Congress-I) demanded capital punishment for those adulterating foodstuffs. Mr. Jaipal Singh Kashyap (DSP) demanded an enquiry by Supreme Court judges into the entire matter.

Mr. Ram Pyare Panika (Congress-I) accused the Janata Party of "sowing the seeds of adulteration of vanaspathi, by liberalising import of tallow".

Quoting figures, Mr. M. K. Goyal (BJP) alleged that the import of tallow had been going on since 1969. He denied the allegation that his party was making tallow imports an election issue.

Mr. A. K. Roy (Ind) said the BJP, Janata and the Congress (I) were encouraging communalism by exploiting the tallow issue.

Prof. Saifuddin Soz (NC) said if the import of tallow was banned completely the prices of soap and oil would go up further. This had already happened in Jammu and Kashmir.

Dinner: The Lok Sabha Speaker, Mr. Balram Jakhar, while announcing the late night session to discuss the issue of tallow import, said amidst laughter that the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs had arranged a dinner where both "bhojan and khana" will be served. (Vegetarian food is sarcastically called bhojan and non-vegetarian as khana). — UNI, PTL

COAL PRODUCTION FOR 1983 UP OVER PREVIOUS YEAR

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 3 Jan 84 p 7

[Text] Coal production in the country during the year 1983 (January-November) touched the figure of 121.06 million tonnes, registering a four per cent increase over the production of 116.34 million tonnes during the same period of 1982, reports PTI.

By end of December 1983, the production was expected to reach 134.50 million tonne level, 6 million tonnes more than the 1982 production of 128.50 million tonnes, according to official sources.

The companies under Coal India Ltd together produced a total of 106.32 million tonnes compared to 102.07 million tonnes produced during the year 1982 in the January-November period.

The production which suffered in the beginning of the year on account of unusual absenteeism and infrastructural problems improved considerably during the later months following measures taken to improve power supply and also to instill discipline among the workers. In November 1983 the total production was nearly 14 per cent more than the production of November 1982.

The overall despatches of coal from coal companies during the year 1983 (January to November) was 119.17 million tonnes compared to 113.31 million tonnes in 1982. During the period April to November 1983, the power and cement sector received 15.5 per cent and 13.9 per cent more coal than the same period in 1982-83. The overall despatches of steam and slack coal during this period has been to the extent of 80.4 per cent for steam coal and 94.7 per cent for slack coal vis-a-vis demand.

Overall daily loadings of wagons increased to 10,394 in December, 1983 compared to 9,268 wagons per day in December 1982 showing an increase of more than 12 per cent. The despatches by road and other means registered two per cent increase during the April to November period in 1983 compared to the same period of 1982.

Production of Neyveli Lignite Corporation registered 7.1 per cent increase during the period of April-November, 1983 compared to the same period of

1982. Increases have been registered in the NLC in the sectors like production of urea, production of coke and power generation.

Two steps were initiated during the year for quality improvement in coal. Instructions have been issued for manual picking from the wagons at the time of loading to remove shale and stones. Secondly, a programme of setting up more coal handling plants has been taken up. A total of 31 CHPs and 63 mini CHPs are under construction in the CIL companies. At present there are 56 CHPs and 100 mini CHPs.

CSO: 4600/1422

COUNCIL URGES PROGRAM TO STEP UP FOOD PRODUCTION

Madras THE HINDU in English 4 Jan 84 p 9

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Jan. 3.

The Centre is considering from the administrative, financial and technical angles, as a matter of high priority, the recommendations of the Economic Advisory Council headed by Prof. Sukhamoy Chakravarty, for a concerted action programme to step up the country's production of wheat, rice and coarse grain by 10 to 12 per cent over the next two or three years through an annual growth rate of three to 3.5 per cent to reach a target of at least 160 million tonnes a year.

It is considered to be well within the realm of achievement primarily through more efficient water management, better supply of fertilizers and pesticides, increased availability of quality seeds, easier access to technical expertise and effective coordination.

The Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, is reported to be keen that the Government should launch this ambitious programme not only to increase food production in low yield areas, but also improve the living standards of the rural population by stepping up the incomes. The Economic Advisory Council has also recommended that side by side with this new drive to step up wheat, rice and coarse grain output, the Government should make a determined effort to increase the production of edible oilseeds to end the dependence on imports which continue to impose a drain of about Rs. 600 crores a year in foreign exchange.

Going ahead with projects: One view is that the new agricultural drive should be built into the Seventh Plan and the additional resources made available for it should form part of the annual Plan allocations of the States so that the implementation could be closely monitored by the Planning Commission. But another view is that the Government need not wait for the commencement of the next Plan in 1985 but proceed with it from this year itself to get things moving before dovetailing it into the Seventh Plan.

The whole rationale behind the Council's recommendation is that if Punjab and Haryana could achieve a wheat production of six tonnes per hectare through better utilisation of water resources, there is no reason why the rest of the country should remain stagnant with an average of one and half tonnes per hectare in some of the other regions. The Council wants a concerted effort to be made in the eastern region where water is plentiful and the climatic conditions are good for use of new hybrid seeds that have been so successful in the northern region.

The French Minister for Agriculture, Mr. Michel Rocard, who met the Prime Minister yesterday, offered French technical assistance in increasing food production, especially edible oilseeds, through a crash programme. He visited Gujarat to get an idea of India's problems in the field of oilseeds to meet its requirements, since it is not beyond the capacity of India's farming community to bridge the gap soon.

CSO: 4600/1427

FISCAL MEASURES TO CHECK PRICE RISE PROPOSED

Madras THE HINDU in English 28 Dec 83 p 1

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Dec. 27.

The Government proposes to take a series of fiscal measures, besides imposing curbs on public expenditure and exercising stricter control on utilisation of Plan allocations, to check the rise in prices.

The very first of these fiscal steps, taken to ban the export of what is called CTC (curl-tear-and-crush) tea has led within a day to a fall of as much as Rs. 8 a kg in its price at the Calcutta market.

The prices of onions and potatoes have also come down, but for entirely different reasons. There is a glut of these two items now in northern and western India and the current policy of the Government is to ensure their freer availability in all parts of the country rather than allow the surplus to be exported in the name of ensuring a fair return to the producers in Maharashtra, Gujarat, Punjab, Haryana and other States.

The proposed steps will extend to a wide range of commodities, not merely onions, potatoes and tea, to make some difference in the cost of living of the vocal middle classes and the long suffering poorer sections. The Government is keen on achieving some results before the price rise becomes a major campaign issue on the eve of the next Parliamentary elections.

Curbing money supply

A Cabinet Sub-Committee assisted by some senior Secretaries, has been considering how to restrict the money supply without imposing undue curbs on credit to industry, trade and agriculture. The banks are flush with deposits and foreign exchange remittances, too, have been going up, making the Government wonder what to do with the surplus money at the disposal of the Government.

The first hint that the Government was planning to take some steps to check the price rise was given by the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, in her speech at the public meeting she addressed on December 18 in Madras, but it did not receive much attention since she was not quite specific about it. She evidently did not want to say anything more at that stage,

when the Government was working out the steps to be taken at least to halt the new inflationary pressures.

The Finance Minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, has been consulting the Planning Commission, the Reserve Bank and other agencies of the Government on how to curtail non-Plan expenditure and exercise greater control on the use of Plan allocations. He has also been discussing with senior officials of his Ministry the ways of stepping up tax collections.

But the Government still has no clear idea of what should or could be done to prevent the operation of a parallel economy through continued generation of black money which is the root cause of the country's economic problem. The mere control of onion, potato or tea prices is not going to bring any relief to the common man if he has to pay more and more for his other daily requirements.

There is, however, some satisfaction in Governmental circles that the winter rains this year have been very good which means that there would be no appreciable food shortage in the country even if the next north-west monsoon is not up to expectations. The officials concerned continue to point out that, despite the increase in prices, there are no serious shortages as such in any part of the country of essential commodities at present, as though this is a blessing in itself for a people long accustomed to both these privations.

The price issue, strangely enough, is being tackled in its own context through administrative action, not as part of a budgetary approach to the current economic situation. The two exercises have apparently been proceeding side by side without much correlation except in a very general sense.

There is no evidence that the Government is thinking of some bold departures from the beaten track to give the next Budget the character and content of an imaginative effort for ending the present stagnation. It is this aspect of governmental orthodoxy that makes the hard-pressed public quite sceptical of these promises of concerted action on the price front.

PRESS BRIEFED ON OUTCOME OF RSP NATIONAL PARLEY

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 27 Dec 83 p 9

[Text] The week-long national conference of the Revolutionary Socialist Party, which concluded at Quilon recently, rejected the possibility of any political understanding with the National Democratic Alliance of the Bharatiya Janata Party and the Lok Dal. The RSP was, however, prepared for a joint movement with the constituents of the newly-formed nine-party United Front.

Briefing reporters, Mr Makhan Paul, secretary, West Bengal State Committee of the RSP, said in Calcutta on Saturday that the main thrust of the political report adopted was on the programme of projecting the United Front of Leftist and Marxist parties as the third alternative to the Congress(I) at the national level.

The RSP, according to Mr Paul, had taken a critical view of the performance of the Left Front Government in West Bengal and Tripura, even during the party's previous national conference in 1980. It had not been possible for the Left Front Governments to "overstep to absolute limits of the prevailing bourgeois property system as sanctioned under the Constitution".

Nor they had been able to undertake large-scale measures for the economic uplift of the people or of industrial expansion, because of restricted financial and political powers of the States. The RSP, therefore, had laid more emphasis on the police of utilizing the political powers of the Left Front parties in the Government and the mass support behind them as "weapons of mass struggle for the realization of the democratic demands of the people", Mr Paul said.

The conference sharply criticized the failure of the Left Front Governments in this respect and the tendency of the party Ministers and cadres of gradually settling down to "routine administration and extremely limited reformist measures". The main task of the Left forces, according to the RSP conference document, would be to seek "to break out of these constraints and to build up mass sanctions for a thorough overhaul of the existing Centre-State relations", Mr Paul added.

CSO: 4600/1409

TRIPURA OFFICIALS CONCERNED OVER BORDER OCCUPATION

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 24 Dec 83 p 4

[Text] Agartala, Dec 23 (UNI)--Ruling and Opposition members in Tripura Assembly today expressed concern at the 'forceful occupation' of some parts of the State by Bangladesh nationals.

Mr Basit Ali (Congress-I) said he had talked to the local people and ascertained from them that about six hectares of land in 'Samarpurpar' under Kailashahar sub-division of North District were now under 'forced occupation' of Bangladeshis.

Chief Minister Nripen Chakraborty assured the member that his government would not allow an inch of Tripura's territory to be occupied illegally by Bangladesh nationals. The North District magistrate would be asked immediately to visit the area and submit a detailed report so that the External Affairs Ministry's attention could be drawn to the matter, he said.

Deputy Speaker Bimal Sinha (CPI-M) complained that the Bangladesh Rifles and the subdivisional officers of Maulabi Bazar in Bangladesh were warning the people of Chandannagar village against going to the adjoining Kamalpur sub-divisional town of north Tripura for marketing.

Earlier, replying to a calling attention on the transfer of Chandannagar to Bangladesh, the Chief Minister said under the Kar-Grit map of demarcation of the Tripura-Sylhet border, which was accepted by both the countries, above 35 hectares from the area having a population of 371 constituting 59 families would go to Bangladesh.

The Chief Minister said that people of that area had however, opted for Indian citizenship and a scheme for their rehabilitation had been finalised.

Mr Chakraborty said that after partition, the border of Tripura with the erstwhile East Pakistan was demarcated on a 'give and take basis'. He also informed Mr Sinha that it would not be easy at this stage to revise earlier decisions as it would mean reopening earlier border settlement cases.

He said it would be unwise to take up any permanent development work for Chandannagar but gave an assurance that he would take up the matter of protecting the rights of its inhabitants with the Border Security Force till the village went to Bangladesh.

CSO: 4600/1404

FORMER COVERT SIKH MILITANT GROUP EMERGES

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 24 Dec 83 p 9

[Text] Amritsar, December 23.

A new development in Akali morcha politics is the emergence of the Babbar Khalsa, a militant organisation which had been lying low so far.

Political observers assign various reasons for this covert body becoming overt. Originally a part of the Akhand Kirtani Jatha, led by Mrs. Amarjit Kaur, wife of Mr. Fauja Singh, the agricultural inspector who was killed here in a clash with the Nirankaris on April 13, 1978, these militants have come into their own, though maintaining nominal links with the Kirtani Jatha.

One obvious reason for its emergence in public is that it wants to steal the limelight from Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale in militancy and defending the Sikh faith. The Babbar Khalsa could no longer tolerate that the credit for killing the Nirankaris should go to Sant Bhindranwale. Its leader, Mr. Sukhev Singh, claimed that it was his organisation which had killed 35-odd Nirankaris in the state.

Violent Objectives

He disclosed the three-fold aim of the organisation--to kill Nirankaris, enemies of the Panth and those who helped these enemies, meaning policemen and others.

The other reason is that they want to dispel the impression that they had killed ten non-Sikh bus passengers recently. Killing innocent people was against the tenets of Sikhism, its leader explained.

Informed sources say that the Babbar Khalsa is being propped up as a rival militant force to contain the growing influence of Sant Bhindranwale. There is no love lost between Sant Harchand Singh Longowal, dictator of the morcha, and Sant Bhindranwale and the differences between them on policy and other matters are growing every day.

The cold war between them is hotting up. One indication of this is the zooming number of armed Sikh youth coming to the temple these days and paying

obeisance to Sant Longowal. They are members of the youth wing of the Akali Dal, which is rural-based.

The all-India Sikh Students' Federation draws its members from colleges and schools and owes allegiance to Sant Bhindranwale.

While some observers fear that the cold war may turn into a shooting war, insiders rule out the eventuality as both the Sants know that such a development will destroy both. Meanwhile, tension in the temple complex is growing and so is the number of arms.

Sant Bhindranwale is now staying in a room in the Akal Takht where Sant Fateh Singh stayed prior to his threat to immolate himself. He is also said to have taken all his arms with him. His men have occupied the rooms in the "prakarma" of the temple. The Sant holds his daily durbar on the roof of the langar (community kitchen) building and sleeps at the Akal Takht at night.

The challenge to Sant Bhindranwale from the Babbars should not be minimised. There are different versions about their actual strength. While some say they are not more than two dozen, intelligence sources say they are more than 100 spread over Jullundur, Ludhiana, Kapurthala and Bhatinda districts. They have the support of some prominent moderate Akali leaders.

The emergence of the Babbar Khalsa has a parallel in Sikh history. During the Gurudwara reform movement of the 'twenties when the Sikhs launched several morchas, there surfaced a body of Sikhs called the Babbar Akalis. These Akalis did not believe in the peaceful methods adopted by the Akali Dal to achieve their objective. They believed that peaceful methods could be tolerated up to a limit after which recourse to violence was justified. The Babbar Akalis too believed in collecting arms and punishing 'traitors' and policemen.

CSO: 4600/1402

DEFENSE INSTITUTE JOURNAL TELLS PAKISTAN ACQUISITIONS

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 27 Dec 83 p 13

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Dec. 26.—Islamabad is reported to be pressurizing the USA to ensure that the F-16 aircraft are kept "in readiness for a possible operation on the Indian side".

This is mentioned in an article in Strategic Analysis of the New Delhi-based Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses. "Pakistan is also likely to acquire the versatile Maverick air-to-surface missile system for its F-16 aircraft and for its Navy, which will give it greater offensive capability in the air and over the sea.

The missile is designed for launching from tactical aircraft against such hard-point targets as field fortifications, bunkers, tanks, armoured personnel carriers, ships, radar and missile sites", the journal has reported. "Pakistan is being armed with some top-of-the-line weapons which would be more suitable against India than in the rugged mountains in the West". It said.

Pakistan is also to receive four F-3C Hawkeye radar surveillance and command control aircraft, from the USA. The Hawkeye can be used either as carrier-borne aircraft or for land based operations. The U.S. Administration has also cleared the sale of four OV-1 Mohawk battlefield and maritime reconnaissance aircraft. This aircraft can be fitted with cameras, side-looking airborne radar and infrared sensors. It has short take-off and landing capability and can operate from unprepared airfields.

According to the journal, the Pakistani Navy is also gearing up for modernization and sophistication. Apart from four Vulcan-Phalanx close-in weapon systems; cost-

ing \$38 million, the U.S. Administration has told Congress of its decision to sell Harpoon missiles justifying it on the grounds that Pakistan occupies a strategic location in the Indian Ocean, astride the vital sea lanes of communication and on approaches to the Gulf. Pakistan is trying to obtain all the three versions: air-borne, submarine and ship-launched, numbering 40 in all, according to a report in the Aerospace Daily of Washington.

The Gearing-class destroyers—the sixth such destroyer is scheduled to reach Pakistan some time this month—can launch the Harpoon missiles from the existing launchers with minimal modification. Some recent reports suggest that the U.S. Navy plans to supply major defence equipment to Pakistan. The details have been kept secret, even from Congress, which is unusual.

Pakistan has already received, or is to receive, 40 F-16s, 20 AH-1s helicopters, 100 M-48 A5 Tanks, 24 M-90 improved tow vehicles, 1005 additional tow missiles, 64 M-109 A2 155 M. M. Self-propelled Howitzers, 75 M-108 155 M.M. towed Howitzers, 40 M-11 A2 M-4inch self-propelled Howitzers and 75 M-113 A2 armoured personnel carriers, night vision equipment, 35 M-88 A1 armoured recovery vehicles, electronic counter-measures, system AN APX 72 and AN APX 101 and 10 AN/TPQ 36 mortar-locating radars.

Apart from modernization of Karachi and Port Qasim, ports and airfields were being developed at Jiwani, Gwadar, Ormara and Pasni on the Makran coast, the journal added.

DELHI FORMS PANEL ON MARINE POLLUTION

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 5 Jan 84 p 9

[Article by S. Kumar]

[Text] Ranchi, January 4.

The department of environment has set up a committee to control marine pollution, particularly by oil discharge.

Its terms of reference include preparation of a national oil spill disaster plan and a time-bound programme for establishing facilities to fight and monitor oil spills in all ports.

The step follows a recommendation made at the 70th Indian Science Congress for extensive studies on the deterioration of ocean environment.

Dr. S. Varadarajan, secretary to the department of science and technology, today presented to the 71st congress the report of the task force which went into the action taken on the various recommendations made at the previous session. Among the other decisions taken relating to oceanography was the proposed acquisition of two coastal vessels by the Geological Survey of India for exploring territorial waters. The ships, being built in the Netherlands, were expected to be delivered by the middle of this year.

Data Centre

Another recommendation made was that there should be only one centralised national data centre for all marine living sources and the Central Marine and Fisheries Research Institute had established it. Dr. Varadarajan said to create an awareness about ocean and other sciences among the public and students in particular, the department of science and technology had constituted the National Council for Science and Technology Communication.

The Archaeological Survey of India, he said, was planning to set up a separate branch for marine archaeology and the government was considering a proposal to depute an officer from the ASI to Greece for advanced training in underwater technology.

Dr. Varadarajan also said that arrangements had been made by the department of ocean development for technology transfer for fabricating submersibles.

Commenting on the action report, Dr. B. Ramachandra Rao, former vice-chairman of the University Grants Commission, pointed out that while voluminous data existed on oceanography in the universities of Cochin and Madras, no mention had been made of it in the report.

Also, the report had revealed that while there was duplication of work carried out at many laboratories like desalination of water, fish meals and pollution studies, very little had been done on ocean acoustic sounding.

Certain species of fish were known to be lured by special sound effects, a technique adopted by the Japanese, but very little was done in this regard in India, Dr. Rao opined. Similarly, there was no progress in setting up tidal wave and ocean wave studies.

Dr. Rao suggested that for oceanographic research in universities, the UGC itself could acquire a research vessel exclusively for its use. Referring to the lack of awareness about ocean among youth, Dr. Rao called for systematic programmes for inculcating the art of swimming. Though the UGC had attempted to do this by setting up swimming pools, the programme did not succeed, he said.

PTI adds: Dr. P. S. B. R. James, assistant director-general of fisheries, Indian Council of Agricultural research, has been awarded the S. L. Hora medal for 1983. Dr. James has been cited for his work in the field of applied fishery research.

CSO: 4600/1428

BRIEFS

RECORD TEA PRODUCTION--Calcutta, January 1 (UNI): India produced 585 million kg of tea, an all time high, in 1983, according to the tea board chairman, Mr. Jagdish Khattar. He told newsmen that the export of tea was expected to be valued at over Rs. 500 crore, also an all time record. The unit value realisation had increased substantially to Rs. 26.60 per kg as against Rs. 19 last year. He said tea export to the Soviet Union, Iran and Iraq, besides its traditional market in the United Kingdom, had gone up during the year. The country's export prospects for 1984 were bright with a shipment of about one million kg each to Poland and Iraq. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 2 Jan 84 p 22]

CHANDRA ORISSA SPEECH--Berhampur (Orissa), December 25 (PTI): Mr. Romesh Chandra, president of the World Peace and Solidarity Organisation, has said that the CIA's hand was suspected in the Sri Lanka riots and in fanning separatist forces in Assam and Punjab. Addressing a meeting here last evening, Mr. Chandra said that the CIA was engaged in espionage in India with a view to weakening the country. The arming of Pakistan with latest and sophisticated weapons was to bring India down to her knees, he alleged. Mr. Chandra, who is currently touring Orissa at the head of a delegation of his organisation, claimed that 75 per cent of mankind in 100 countries were solidly behind the world peace movement. This was not dictated by any political motives, but by genuine desire to save mankind from the holocaust of nuclear war. He urged the people to raise their voice against the U.S. imperialism and deployment of the medium range nuclear missiles in Europe. Mr. Lorenz Knorr, president of the peace union of West Germany and Madam Hammerchalg (Austria) said that the U.S. deployment of missiles in Western Europe was against the Soviet Union. They recalled how dropping of the atom bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki had killed millions of innocent people and maimed several million others. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 26 Dec 83 p 2]

ASIAN TRADE UNION--Bangalore, December 21: An Asian trade union conference on development, regional economic cooperation and a new international economic order will be held in Delhi by the end of 1984. The All-India Trade Union Congress is taking the lead in organising the conference. Its general secretary, Mr. Indrajit Gupta, said here yesterday that he expected the co-operation of other trade union organisations, including the INTUC and the CITU. A fallout from the 32nd session of the AITUC, which ended here yesterday, was a joint statement by representatives of 11 Asian countries

which called for mobilisation of the Asian trade union movement in the battle against unemployment and poverty and for peace, security and social progress. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 22 Dec 83 p 22]

TRADE WITH BHUTAN--New Delhi, Dec. 28.--India and Bhutan yesterday signed in Thimpu a five-year agreement on trade and commerce replacing the 1972 pact which had lapsed some time ago, reports PTI. The main feature of the new agreement is that besides preserving the free trade between India and Bhutan, it has simplified the procedure for Bhutan's trade with third countries. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 29 Dec 83 p 13]

SAUDI AID--Bhubaneswar, Jan. 2. The vital railway line for the National Aluminium Company--the Koraput-Rayagada link--will be constructed with Saudi Arabian aid of Rs. 30 crores. This was announced by the Minister of State for Railways, Mr. C. K. Jaffer Sharief while inaugurating the Coach Repair Workshop at Mancheswar near Bhubaneswar. The work on the 160-km Koraput-Rayagada rail link, in the first phase, had been taken up up to Machiliguda near Damanjoi in Koraput district where the Rs. 1,242-crore aluminium plant is being set up. Mr. Sharief said the Centre was aware of the needs of Orissa which was backward. The Chief Minister, Mr. J. B. Patnaik said the Railway Board had sanctioned Rs. 16 crores for the second phase of the Koraput-Rayagada line. He wanted the Talcher-Sambalpur railway link included in the next plan. [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 3 Jan 84 p 7]

EXTREMISTS' LINKS--Imphal, Jan. 2. Assamese extremists had established links with their counterparts in Manipur and Nagaland a few years ago, according to documents seized by the security forces from underground hide-outs in Manipur. A group of 15 youths were now undergoing training in guerilla warfare in Burma, these documents have shown. The self-styled 'Foreign Secretary' of the outlawed National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN), Angelous Shimray, who carries a reward of Rs. 25,000 on his head, was still maintaining contact with the extremists in Assam, Manipur and Nagaland with the object of forming an apex body for coordinating insurgency in the north-eastern region. Details on these were given to a group of newsmen from Guwahati visiting here, by the security forces in charge of anti-insurgency drive. The documents also showed that Mr. Joynath Sarmah, former chief of the volunteer force of the All-Assam Students Union (AASU), spearheading the movement on the foreigners' issue, had also met some prominent underground leaders in Manipur and Nagaland frequently.--PTI. [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 3 Jan 84 p 9]

KHRISHNA GODIVARI OIL--Madras, Dec. 21. A reassessment of the Krishna-Godavari Basin operation undertaken by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC) has shown that the "potential for oil is very much there" and steps have been taken to exploit it commercially. This has been possible due to the common basin approach--a new geological concept adopted by ONGC which is looking at oil exploration/exploitation on a countrywide basis instead of following separate means for off-shore and on-shore exploration. Col. S. P. Wahi, Chairman, ONGC, who gave this information to newsmen here today, said a 20-year conceptual plan involving an investment of Rs. 29,000 crores

and an immediate 10-year operational plan estimated to cost about Rs. 19,000 crores had been approved. ONGC proposed to produce about 45 million tonnes of oil by 1989-90. The pipeline project (for carrying gas from Bassein in Gujarat) was ready. The oil glut in world markets had created a situation where the foreign suppliers "are now turning to ONGC's long-term planning and have come forward with offers of equipment supplies at 50 per cent of the cost that was prevalent in 1979." ONGC had decided to place orders both abroad and within the country in a big way. Training institutes for scientists and engineers had started operating at Dehra Dun. The three existing institutes for petroleum technology would be closely cooperating with the data centre now being set up. Col. Wahi said that during the next two years the production was expected to touch 23 million and 27 million tonnes respectively. ONGC would acquire a ship from France for geotechnical investigations. [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 22 Dec 83 p 10]

REGIONAL PARTY UNION--Bangalore, January 1 (UNI): A national union of regional parties in the country was launched here today. The union has been formed on the basis of an eight point common programme which includes equipment redistribution of political and economic power among the Centre and the states, restoration of communal and regional harmony and working for the realisation of the Gandhian objectives like panchayat raj, gram swaraj and antyodaya. The union would be an apex body of the parties and each one would be free to retain its identity and could draw up programmes according to the needs of the area, a spokesman of the two-day convention of regional parties said here today. Mr. A. K. Subbaiah, president of the Kannada Nadu party, which is hosting the convention, in his speech said that the national parties had failed to deliver the goods to the people. The regional parties alone could put up the fight against poverty, unemployment and casteism, according to him. Mr. Subbaiah appealed to Mr. N. T. Ramarao and Dr. Farooq Abdulla, chief ministers of Andhra Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir respectively, to lead the national union and give a new direction to the country's politics. The union would fight against all wrong policies of the government. The participants included the Indian National Congress (O), Tamil Nadu Congress for Democracy (revolution), Kerala Janata (G) and Kerala Karmik Parishat. Mr. Gopalan of Janata (G) presided over today's deliberations. The officebearers of the union would be announced shortly. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 2 Jan 84 p 1]

CSO: 4600/1429

MUSLIMS REPORTEDLY RECRUITED IN EUROPE FOR KAMIKAZE OPERATIONS

Paris LE MONDE in French 10 Jan 84 p 48

[Text] An Iranian terrorist network is responsible for the recent murderous attacks directed against the United States and France, in Beirut or in France itself, according to a statement made by Amir Taheri, Iranian journalist, in the British weekly, THE SUNDAY TIMES, in its edition for Sunday, 8 January.

The newspaper states specifically that the objective of the network is to organize "suicide operations" against Western targets and that its "recruiting centers" are located in London and Rome. The existence of this kamikaze network (in Persian, 'ensan entehari') has led to a beefing up of the security personnel assigned to several heads of state in the West, Presidents Reagan and Mitterrand in particular.

According to the SUNDAY TIMES, the first attempt made by terrorist network took place in April 1983, against the American embassy in Beirut. The attempts that resulted in the largest number of deaths were those made in this same city against the headquarters of the American and French soldiers of the multinational force. The most recent are those perpetrated on 31 December in France against the T.G.V. [French high speed train] and against the Saint-Charles railway station in Marseilles.

The SUNDAY TIMES reports that the terrorist recruiting center in London is directed by the Ayatollah Azari Qomi, who arrived in the British capital five months ago. In October, the SUNDAY TIMES reveals, 4 million pounds (about 500 million francs) were deposited in a bank account on the British island of Jersey, to finance the center's operations, and according to the same source, the center in Rome is directed by the Ayatollah Hadi Kosrow-Chahi, whose official duties are those of ambassador to the Vatican.

The shah's son, Reza II, and Ahmad Madani, former Iranian defense minister, appear on Imam Khomeyni's black list, which contains 19 names, according to the SUNDAY TIME, which also notes that French authorities have warned a certain number of Iranian political exiles to be on their guard.

The Iranian editor of the SUNDAY TIMES reports that the future kamikazes are between 16 and 30 years of age and come from several Moslem countries, among which are Pakistan, Tunisia and Turkey. They are trained physically and psychologically in Iran in three special camps: manzarieh, north of Tehran, Saleh-Abad, north of Qom, for the men, and Behjatich, west of Tehran, reserved for the women. In these camps the volunteers are cut off from all contact with the outside world for several months and at the end of their stay, the prospect of killing for God and dying for imam Khomeyni has become a source of joy for them. According to a highly placed member of the CIA quoted by the British weekly, the kamikazes are drugged before making their attempts.

The terrorist "Carlos," is, above all, a "conformist incapable of questioning the strict education he received." This is the opinion of a Parisian expert in graphology, who has analyzed a photocopy of the handwritten letter sent by the terrorist to the AFP [French News Agency] after the Saint-Sylvestre attempts (LE MONDE, 8-9 January). This expert, who has asked that he remain anonymous because of his professional duties, stated under court oath that Carlos' handwritting is "very regular and an example of fine penmanship, like that of someone who received a very strict education as a schoolboy and who, after becoming an adult, was unable to break out of the mold in which he had been cast as a child." The expert added: "This impression is confirmed by the pronounced tilt of the letters, which shows the lack of a critical mind and the inability to question oneself. The letters written with cross-strokes that are perfectly parallel show that he sees the world through goggles."

[Boxed Section]

Foundation of an Association of Iranian Journalists of the Opposition

Twelve former Iranian newspaper editors opposed to the Islamic regime recently met in Munster (West Germany) for the purpose of founding the Association of Iranian Journalists and Writers in Exile. They elected as their president Mr Iraj Akbar-Rabbi'i, former editor in chief of the Tehran newspaper, Payane Iran. The association set as its objective "the dissemination of concrete reports on the Iranian dictatorship and the other dictatorships of the East."

*Iranischer Journalisten in Exil, P.O. Box 1231, 44 Munster, West Germany.

Phone: 0251/66 38-61.

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CSO: 4619/12

'ONE WINDOW OPERATION' FOR INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS SUGGESTED

Karachi MORNING NEWS in English 15 Jan 84 p 8

[Text] The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry has suggested 'one-window operation' to facilitate accelerated implementation of sanctioned industrial projects in Pakistan.

Suggestion to this effect was made by Mr Mohammad Unis Elahi, Acting President of FPCCI, at a meeting with a three-member United Nations Centre for Transnational Corporation (UNCTC) team at its office on Thursday last.

Transfer of technology, he said, from transnational corporations should conform to our social conditions, which necessitate that labour intensive aspect should not be ignored so that local skills and talents were put to good use and local raw materials were preferentially utilised.

The UNCTC team, led by Ms Lilia Bautistia, Governor, Board of Investment of the Philippines, includes Mr Tom Allen, Joint Managing Director Implementation and Management Group PTY, Ltd., Australia, and Mr Charles Kirudji, Project Officer, UNCTC, New York.

The team is currently touring Pakistan in connection with issues relating to laws, regulations and administrative arrangements and procedures concerning foreign direct investment, formulation of laws and to assist in elaborating or strengthening evaluation, screening and monitoring guidelines for projects with a view to bringing them under the purview of 'one-window operation'.

The team will furnish a report to the Government of Pakistan shortly after concluding consultations with various trade bodies.--APP.

CSO: 4600/294

BRIEFS

ZIA PRAISES ISHAQ, MAHBUB--Islamabad, Jan. 5: President General Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq today paid rich tributes to the Federal Ministers Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Dr Mahbubul Haq for their contribution to the building-up of the country's economy. Concluding the two-day Ulema Convention, the President said that the credit of putting the national economy back on the rails went to Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan who is a sincere and pious man. There are very few countries in the world who have services of persons like Ghulam Ishaq Khan. The President dispelled the general impression that the economy is weak due to Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan. In fact, he said, the economic progress made by the country over the past few years is due to Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan. The President also highly praised the approach of Dr Mahbubul Haq, Federal Minister for Planning and Development and said the credit for efficient planning of the economic management went to Dr Haq.--PPI [Text] [Karachi MORNING NEWS in English 6 Jan 84 p 1]

LEADER'S BOOK BANNED--Lahore, Jan 7: The Punjab Government has proscribed the book entitled "Maujooda Siasi Soorat-i-Hall Aur Pakistan Ka Mustaqbil", written by Mr Shaukat Ali, General Secretary of the Pakistan Mazdoor Kissan Party, published by Mazdoor Kissan Publishers, People's Building, 5-Faridkot Road, Lahore, and printed at Lahore Art Press, New Anarkali, Lahore, as it contained objectionable material within the meaning of the Section 24 of the West Pakistan Press and Publication Ordinance, 1963. All copies of the aforesaid book have also been forfeited by the Government with immediate effect.--PPI. [Text] [Karachi MORNING NEWS in English 8 Jan 84 p 5]

ZIA ON BENAZIR'S RELEASE--Islamabad Jan 13: President General Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq said here today that Miss Behzair Bhutto was released purely on the initiative of Pakistan Government and on the request of Miss Benazir Bhutto. The President was replying to a question whether she was released as a result of some understanding with the Government etc. The President said we take continuous look on the few of the detenus we have we continuously review the reasons how and when the restrictions are lifted. [as published] When asked whether other detenus will be permitted to go abroad he said the persons on whom there are restrictions they cannot but in cases of extreme sickness such cases are considered.--PPI [as published] [Text] [Karachi MORNING NEWS in English 14 Jan 84 p 1]

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